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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 3.

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Fall.
Paint.
Be on time.
Look ahead.
Cull closely.
Do well today.
Advertise now.
Report results.
Molting season.
Repair the roofs.
Gather road dust.
Sow a crop of rye.
Plow up the yards.
Prepare for winter.
Trap the egg eater.
Study convenience.
Start a broiler crop.
Order new cockerels.
Whitewash liberally.
Weed out the drones.
A good time to build.
Clean up thoroughly.
Labor saved is a gain.
Mr. Putoff is a failure.
Encourage the pullets.
Mr. Putoff is forgetful.
Select the winter stock.
Tell us your experience.
Fumigate the buildings.
Avoid unnecessary labor.
Have matters convenient.
"Cuckoo" nest trap leads.
Personal attention is best.
Carelessness is disastrous.
Dig around the fruit trees.
Broodiness is growing less.
Let pullets develop before mating.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Trap Nest Trials—The "Cuckoo" Pronounced the Best—Size, Ventilation, Convenience and Accuracy the Points that Were Under Consideration—The Egg Yield and Prices for the Month of July.

The trap nest trials—as far as the present contest, at least, is concerned—are at an end. During these months of experimenting, not once did we show favors to any of the competitors. We rendered our decision according to size of nest, amount of ventilation given the hen on the nest, convenience for handling hen and egg, and accuracy of trap's working.

The nest that combined the most points, according to our scale for judging, was the *Cuckoo*, invented by Mr. John Geishaker, of Hammonton. This nest takes up the least room; is well ventilated; most convenient arrangement for removing hen and egg; easy for hen to enter; and impossible for two hens to get on the nest at the same time. There is no guess work.

All work is done from the front, there being no back nor top door for removing hen or egg. This makes it more desirable for placing under the dropping platforms.

The nest is semi-dark, which we consider an improvement over one too light or too dark. The double doors in front are worked on chains, and are not likely to get out of order.

Mr. Geishaker also entered the A FEW HENS nest for competition, a well-ventilated, neat and accurate affair, but not so convenient to remove the hen. It cannot be used under the dropping platform, and, as the nest is worked by a tramway, there is a possibility of dirt or nesting material wedging in it so as to make the workings unsatisfactory.

Mr. Wellcome's *Ideal* nest does accurate work, is neat and takes up little space in the house, but it cannot be used under the dropping boards, as the hen and egg must be removed from either the back or top of the nest. The nest,

too, is rather closely built for summer use, the hen suffering considerably if kept enclosed too long during hot weather.

Mr. Newall's *Reliable*, Style C, has never failed, and is the best ventilated nest of the lot. The points against it, however, are first, the room it takes up in the hen house (it cannot well be used under a platform); and, second, the inconvenience to get a broody hen off the nest.

Mr. Lloyd's *Unecda* does accurate work, but inconvenient to use under platform. The working of the nest is done by a string, which is likely to break or play false, requiring some guessing. Yet, to date, we have not met with such experience. This nest, like the *Reliable*, is not adapted for use under the platform.

Mr. Woodhead's *American* nest is accurate so long as dirt or nesting material does not bind the tramway, when it is apt to prevent the trap from working. As the hen and egg must be removed from the rear, it cannot be used under a platform.

We lay great stress on the point that the nest can be worked under a platform. True, these nests opening in the rear can be attended to from an alleyway, but two-thirds of the poultry houses, we believe, do not have an alleyway.

We have endeavored to use the best judgment in our decision, and hope our readers will accept this conclusion as an honest one.

During the past month we have been busy whitewashing, painting, doing general repair work, cleaning up, and the scores of chores and odd jobs that present themselves on a poultry farm, especially at this time of year.

The coming season we will test the egg and meat qualities of a small pen of Silver Wyandottes, a pen of White Plymouth Rocks, and a pen each of Single and Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds, besides considering our work with Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes and Single Comb White Leghorns.

We sell quite a number of roasting fowls, to private custom, during the year, and have been able to meet the demands of small roasters with the White Wyandottes, and large roasters with the Light Brahmas. But very often there is a call for a weight between that of the Brahma and Wyandotte, and we will especially compare the Rhode Island Reds and White Plymouth Rocks for that place.

Our experience with Leghorns has been very good, so far as eggs are concerned, but for table purposes we find them very unsatisfactory. The precociousness of the cockerels, too, gives us considerable trouble. We shall give the breed another trial this year to see if—for a small farm like ours—it will be best to retain them on our list, or have them make place for some other breed which we are testing.

During the month of July our Brahmas laid 203 eggs; Wyandottes, 484 eggs; Leghorns, 205 eggs. This made a total of 892 eggs for the month, or a daily average of a fraction less than 29 eggs. The highest number of eggs laid in one day was 37, and the lowest number 20.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received during the month was 19 cents, and the lowest, 18 cents; average, 18 1-2 cents.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Facts, Figures and Pointers—Egg-Laying Type—Selling Eggs by Weight—Testing Fresh Eggs—Cold-Storage Eggs—Exposure of Eggs for Hatching.

If your neighbor's hens are troublesome
And steal across the way,
Don't let your angry passions rise,
But fix a place for them to lay.

Stamina makes eggs.
Are you feeding drones?
Fat hens are poor layers.
Breed "in line" for eggs.
Hens need encouragement.
New bloods makes stamina.
Neglected hens go on a strike.
You need not inbreed for eggs.
Starved hens cannot make eggs.
Hatch for the year-round egg crop.
The trap-nest will pick out your layers.
The condition of the shell tells the condition of the fowl.
The shell of an egg contains 50 grains of salt of lime.
Between 40 and 50 degrees is the proper temperature to keep eggs for hatching during winter.
Eggs intended for hatching should not be kept over four weeks. They must be turned every day or two.
In an egg of 1000 grains, 600 belong to the white, 300 to the yolk, and 100 to the shell.
A Light Brahma hen's egg will weigh from 2 1-4 to 2 1-2 ounces, or about 1 pound 12 ounces per dozen.
The eggs of the White Leghorn, Black Minorca, and Houdan are of about the same weight as those of the Light Brahma.
For good results in egg production, the hen house during the winter should

not be allowed to become colder than 40 degrees.

It costs one cent each, in the East, to produce an egg; out West, where grain is cheaper, the cost would hardly exceed a half cent.

In 100 parts of the white of an egg, about 84 per cent. is water; 12 1-2 per cent. albumen; one per cent. mineral matter; 2 1-2 per cent. sugar, etc.

The busy, noisy, scratching, singing hen is usually a good layer. There seems to be some connection between vivacity and ovariosity, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*.

A young hen lays a larger litter than the old hen. The first and second years of a hen's life are the most productive of eggs. How unprofitable, then, to kill off the young fowls and leave the aged ones.

A writer on poultry topics says a hen long in neck, and legs, prominent in breast, deep behind, flesh hard and muscular, rather above the average size of the breed, of lively disposition but not easily frightened, large eater, and always hungry, makes the best layer.

There is just as much difference between the eggs of fowls allowed to roam and forage for themselves, and those which are fed regularly on good, nutritious food, as there is between a leg of Southdown mutton and that of a common, half-starved sheep.

An act has been introduced into the House of Commons, Canada, designed to fix the weights at which eggs shall be sold in the Dominion. It provides that unless otherwise specially agreed upon between the buyer and the seller, eggs shall be sold by weight, and the weight equivalent to a dozen shall be one pound and a half.

It is said that a freshly laid egg placed in a bucketful of water will sink to the bottom; one day old will sink nearly to the bottom; two days old, about half way up; three days old, will float not quite at the top; four days old, just touch the top; five and six days, rise a little above the top, rising a little higher as it daily grows older. As we have never tried this, we should like to have a report from our readers.

It is a certainty that poultry raising for egg production pays the farmer. As a general thing the fowls that the farmer keeps in his barn yard, says *American Stock Keeper*, and on which he expends but little, pay best of all his live stock, but when attention is paid to fowls, properly fed, housed and attended, after deducting the cost of keeping, care, interest, per cent. from the amount for which their eggs sell, there is in nine cases out of ten, a larger balance on the credit side of the ledger than is found in connection with any single department of farm industry.

P. H. Jacobs, in *Farm and Fireside*, champions the cause of the cold-storage people. He thinks it a necessity, but admits that it is wrong for the cold-storage people to dump their product on a fresh-egg market. Ah, there is the rub! To label those eggs "cold storage" would cripple their

sales, and the cold-storage sharks are in the business for money. We say, give a cold shoulder to the system. A FEW HENS will not uphold a system that opens the way to dishonesty. If the storage men are honest the dealer is not. The consequence is, the consumer pays a "fresh egg" price for a stale article.

Now that the hot season is upon us, and the fowls are in partial moult, or about so, the complaint comes: "We can get no eggs." Why is it so? Just as soon as the hot weather settles upon some poultry keepers, they are apt to neglect the fowls. They are careless in feeding, and careless in their general work. On A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm, there are two yards to each house, and while the hens are occupying one, the green stuff is growing in the other. This green food, and the green cut bone, and pure ground and whole grain that our stock get, keeps up our egg supply. Probably these complainers are neglecting something.

A writer in the *Scientific American*, having stated eggs will hatch after being 24 hours cold—during incubation—another claims a greater time will not destroy the life of the ovum, and says he had a hen which left her nest for 48 hours after sitting within 2 or 3 days of hatching, and, they being perfectly cold, out of curiosity he determined to try the experiment. He removed them to a garret room, which was very hot, the thermometer in the coldest part of the house being 95 degrees Fah. On the third day from the time the eggs were left by the hen, they hatched by themselves and the chickens are now running about his yard.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Pot-pie—Facts about Broilers and Roasters—The Cramming System—Fattening—Experiments in Crossing—Weight of Chicks.

Mary had a little hen
With feathers white as snow,
The preacher paid a visit; then
The chicken had to go.
—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Get ready for business.
Are you fully equipped?
Study the meat question.
Dressing poultry is an art.
Investigate the requirements.
Poor broilers are caused by overcrowding.
Scrubs make broiler raising unprofitable.
It takes about three months to grow a broiler.
Inquire into the demands of your market.
Broilers shrink about a half pound each when dressed.
The growth of broilers depends upon the stock and care.
The lean bird is neglected in the market and refused by the epicure.
In large cities a broiler which dresses 1 1-2 pounds sells very readily at a good price.

It is a prime requisite in fowls brought to the table that they should be suitably fat.

No poultry should be killed for market which is not of good size and in good condition.

Indian Game on Dorking would make a desirable broiler, but Dorkings are scarce in this country.

Raise what the public demands, and you will be more apt to make money than by following your own inclinations.

A scrub cannot be made to grow even with good care; nor can a fine chick be made to do its best on a diet of neglect.

Sometimes fashion determines the profitable success of a breed of fowls fully as much as any inherent qualities of the birds.

Those who allow themselves to be tempted by high quotations into shipping inferior stock, invariably meet with disappointment.

In killing and dressing poultry, handle gently to avoid bruising. Discoloration quickly follows a bruise, and diminishes the market value of the property.

Fat is not a necessary part of any animal body. It is the form which superabundant nourishment assumes, which would, if needed, be converted into muscles and solids.

The poulterer who places upon the table a plump, juicy broiler, or a delicious roaster, is entitled to as much respect as the planter who furnishes flour, or the cattle king who raises beef.

For our part, we would not want a better eating broiler than Indian Game crossed on Black Langshan, or Houdan crossed on Cochin, but in the market they would not be appreciated.

There is more money made today in raising broilers or roasters for market than anything else, and birds that make the best broilers and lay the maximum number of eggs, are certainly worthy of our attention.

When nourishment is taken into the system in greater quantities than is necessary for ordinary purposes, the absorbent vessels take it up. The fat thus made is generally healthy, provided there is a good digestion.

Immediately after killing a fowl, dip it in a tub of cold water until it ceases struggling, then take out and pick at once, says *Michigan Poultry Breeder*, and you will find that the feathers come out as easily as if scalded.

If you wish to enter the field as a grower of broilers, says *Maine Farmer*, then the more rapid the growth the better the returns. There's a chance for skill and energy in this business, and when applied there is profit for the grower.

In cramming, the food used is oatmeal, mixed stiff with milk and made into boluses, just large enough to put down a chicken's throat without danger of choking it. To fatten more rapidly, mutton suet is boiled in milk and used to mix the meal.

The person employed in the cramming process opens the chicken's beak and puts 6 or 8 boluses down its throat morning and evening. Those taken from the coops will be finished off in

a week; those which have to be fattened entirely by cramming will take 14 to 16 days.

For poultry to carry well, it is essential it should be properly bled. The best way to obtain proper bleeding is to cut through the roof of the mouth. Care must be taken not to cause instantaneous death, as this would interfere with the flow of blood, and render picking more difficult.

Cramming fowls to fatten them quickly, is extensively practised in Europe, especially on the large poultry farms which supply towns and cities. For this purpose either the finest and healthiest birds are taken from the coops where they have already been undergoing the process of fattening or the choicest young fowls from the poultry yard are selected.

The proper age to begin to feed fowls for fattening in good shape is just as soon as they have reached maturity, says *Michigan Poultry Breeder*. Before that they will not fatten as well. Four or five months in summer, and six months old in winter, is about the right age to begin. The age, however, depends somewhat upon the feeding before this time. If they have been dealt with liberally it will take much less time.

In fattening fowls commence gradually and feed up to the full capacity of your birds. Some breeds will stand pushing better than others. Study your fowls and do not overfeed them. If they leave feed it is best to slaken up and let them gain their appetites. Do not stuff your birds if you intend keeping them very long. From 15 to 20 days is usually enough to put fowls in good condition for market, less time is sufficient when your fowls are in fair condition to start with.

Experiments made by crossing an Indian Game male with Plymouth Rock hens, resulted in some very choice table birds. The only objection was the leggy appearance of the chicks when about half grown, but their appearance did not indicate truly their weight, as every one weighed at least half a pound more than other chicks of the same age, while their quality was far above that of any other market cross made. The Game improves all other breeds for the table, but the chicks seem to be somewhat tender when young.

Given healthy life and intelligent attention, the little chicks may be expected to start with 1 1-4 weight—for the production of life causes a loss of just about one-half the weight of the egg, says an exchange. At the end of one week the chick should weigh two ounces; two weeks old, four ounces; three weeks old, 6 1-4 ounces; four weeks old, 10 ounces; five weeks old, 14 ounces; six weeks old, 18 1-2 ounces; seven weeks old, 23 1-2 ounces; eight weeks old, 28 ounces; nine weeks old, 32 ounces; 10 weeks old, 36 ounces.

Commence to hatch with incubators the latter part of fall, and follow with successive hatches until the middle of May, says P. H. Jacobs, in *American Gardening*. The first lot of chicks will be marketable when they begin

to weigh about three-quarters of a pound each, as early broilers in winter, then the preference changes for those weighing a pound, next 1 1-2 pounds, and thus gradually the chicks increase in weight until the old fowls are more saleable. The price is higher per pound the earlier they are hatched. Often a single hatch more than pays for the expenses.

A broiler should have a good, plump breast, broad back, clean yellow legs and yellow skin, and small comb. These requirements really bar out such breeds as Brahmias, Cochins, Langshans, or any crosses on them, on account of the feathers on their legs. They bar out all white-skinned fowls, and they put a damper on all large comb birds like Leghorns, Minorcas, etc. Such being the case, the White Wyandotte has easy sailing; and, besides, it being a quick grower is a most desirable breed for this purpose. Markets are, as a rule, very particular, and while the other breeds may make just as good broilers, if they do not come up to the standard required for their appearance, they are apt to be severely cut in price.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Facts Worth Remembering—Canker Sores—Contagion—Cholera Preventative—Sunshine as a Disinfectant—Dry, Pale Combs—Value of Chlorate of Potash—Only a Slight Cold—Feather-Eating—List of Principal Diseases.

You cannot be too clean.
Quarantine the newcomer.
Purity is an enemy of disease.
Investigate the cause of sickness.
Prevention costs very little labor.
Inspection often reveals surprises.
Sickness is the penalty for some mistake.
Guard carefully against draughts, but ensure ample ventilation.
New blood infuses new life, and, as a rule, insures good health.
When the nature of the disease is discovered, treat accordingly.
The slightest ailment should be treated at once as a contagious complaint.
Doctoring poultry is most troublesome and expensive. Prevention is better than cure.
Insects as well as bacteria avoid a place where there is not an encouraging amount of filth.
Constitutional weakness, though it be apparently overcome, should be the last thing to enter the breeding pen.
As a rule, not enough attention is paid to the family history of fowls for breeding purposes as regards their health.
There is not one-half the amount of labor attached to keeping fowls in health as there is in trying to cure disease.
Exposure to cold or damp, overfeeding old fowls, and filth and lice, are the chief causes of nearly all forms of poultry disease.
Foul air and filth are the cause of most poultry diseases, therefore see that all houses, yards, boxes, nests, feed and water cups are clean.
A great many breeders carelessly put Douglas Mixture in zinc vessels. The

sulphuric acid eats the zinc and makes the drinking water poisonous.

Nearly all the serious troubles with roup, cholera, or any of the diseases, come to the beginner, and this is no doubt caused by inexperience.

A 10-grain solution of nitrate of silver touched on canker sores, and afterward bathed with a solution of chlorate of potash, will cure if applied regularly twice a day.

Many diseases, such as cold, roup, diphtheria, canker and cholera, are highly contagious and need immediate attention, separating the diseased birds from the remainder of the flock.

The life of a fowl is short at best, and there is but little time for it to overcome diseases like canker, roup and such like, and be of any use for breeding purposes.

To perpetuate health in a flock of fowls it will be necessary to breed only the most robust and healthy specimens, making sure that both parents are of healthy and prolific ancestry.

Never under any circumstances use a male that is unsound, but rather seek to have him as nearly a perfect specimen as possible. Make sure that he is out of healthy stock, if possible.

A disease that is transmitted down through one generation to another of chickens, is just as apt to become epidemic as any which attack cattle or human beings, says Wisconsin *Agriculturist*.

The best, and about the only way, to stamp out contagious or inherited disease, is to destroy all the creatures that show symptoms of it and then breed carefully from those that do not have it.

Geo. O. Morris, in an exchange, says: The common buckeye or horse chestnut, slightly cracked and put into the drinking vessels, is a sure preventative for cholera. One to each quart. Change once a month.

Fowls have no sense of smell, so their keepers must perform that function for them, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*. Fowls have nostrils, but not noses, and a long nose for bad smells is a valuable safeguard.

Texas Farm and Ranch says sunshine is a better disinfectant than carbolic acid. Have shade enough for comfort, but let there be no spot in the yard where the sun does not shine during some part of the day.

Hens having dry, pale, shriveled up combs are not in laying condition. If in good health otherwise, a little finely chopped meat fed daily, aided by five or six drops of colchicum wine in a small spoonful of water, given daily, is highly recommended to produce the desired result.

Anne C. Webster says nearly all the diseases of chickens, summer and winter, can be put under one of two classes; inherited or caused by unnatural conditions of food. If we classify them thus broadly it may be simplifying matters for some so they can more intelligently stamp them out.

We do not believe in fooling away time, or endangering stock by trying to cure contagious diseases, and, furthermore, we believe—in fact, know—that if we properly treat sickness in the first

stages we will have no occasion to handle contagion. It remains with the poultryman himself to have hardy stock.

Fowls are naturally healthy, and no other stock on the farm has been so much abused. In many instances no shelter is provided; they must roost in trees, are not fed properly, are bred any old way, kept in any old way, and yet, in spite of all this, they do much better than any other stock on the farm of equal value.

When the poultryman learns how much to feed, the value of exercise, the use of good sharp grit for grinding the feed, the benefits to be derived from warm and clean quarters, the evils of overcrowding, and the necessity of treating promptly the first symptoms of sickness, success begins to become surer, and there is little need of doctoring.

Perhaps there is no medicine in the *materia medica* that is more valuable for canker, sore throat, swelled heads, rattling in throat, and bronchitis, than chlorate of potash. It is quite harmless if small quantities pass down the throat, and may be mixed in water to any degree of strength required, or with whiskey to be applied either upon swelled heads, sore eyes, sore throat, canker spots, etc., as a wash.

What sound is that? Oh, nothing much—the fowl merely sneezed, and there is only a slight running at the nose—nothing to be alarmed at, only a little cold! Ah, that is a signal of distress. That distress will grow. Slight colds neglected are apt to turn into bronchitis, or distemper, or canker, or swelled head and closed eyes, or roup. Thus is a bird killed that might have been restored to health and profit, had not the small matter of “a slight cold” been neglected.

The vice of feather-eating almost always appears in hens, and Wright remarks: “This is somewhat analogous to the strange fancies for unusual articles of diet, frequently observed in the female sex generally.” But there is nothing unusual about the taste for the raw meat and fresh blood that is found at the bottom of the quill, and this, conjoined with the fact that the immediate cause has been generally observed to be thirst, will answer for an explanation, without resorting to such doubtful analogies as the above. Cocks, however, will not often retaliate when pecked at in this way. There are diseases in which the feathers fall off.

Let us make a list of the principal diseases, and see how they are produced by small matters:

Roup: Planted by “only a neglected slight cold.”

Cholera: Caused principally by overcrowding.

Diarrhæa: Damp houses, filthy houses and runs, and bad feeding.

Canker: Dampness and filth.

Diphtheria: Roosting in drafts, also damp houses.

Ulcerated throat: Ditto.

Consumption: Neglected cold.

Apoplexy, Vertigo and Epilepsy: Overfeeding.

Sore Eyes: Damp houses.

Costiveness and Constipation: Improper food.

Soft and Swelled Crop: Overfeeding.

Indigestion or Dyspepsia: Ditto.

Pip: Damp quarters.

Brouchitis: Ditto.

Black Rot: Result of indigestion.

Soft Eggs: Overfeeding.

Gout, Rheumatism and Cramp: Damp houses.

Leg Weakness: Inbreeding and overfeeding.

Bumble Foot: High perches.

Scaly Legs: Filthy and damp quarters.

Chicken Pox: Ditto.

Poultry at the U. S. Stations.

Experiments Tried by Robert R. Dinwiddie, of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, at Fayetteville, to Transmit Tuberculosis to Poultry.

In Bulletin No. 57, Dr. Dinwiddie reports that feeding experiments were made with tuberculous human sputa, obtained from a hospital for consumptives. The chickens subjected to this feeding test were six in number, and about three months old. They received a total of 150 C. C. sputa in their food, in nine doses, during October, 1896. Killed December 21, none of these showed tubercular disease. In the experiment of intra-abdominal inoculation of sputum and bovine cultures, 10 chickens were used, but none affected. The chickens showed themselves equally refractory to both. The inoculation of relatively large doses of recently isolated and vigorously growing cultures never occasioned even local lesions. Poultry, as is well known, are highly resistant to infection with mammalian tuberculosis. However, Nocard and others have observed instances of what appeared to be natural transmission from feeding on human tubercular sputa. Nocard's recent successful transference of mammalian tuberculosis to poultry were made with material of human origin.

In the experiments, infection was not obtained with cultures of either source. That they are not readily infected by contagion from cattle is also shown by the absence of all observations of this kind in spite of the unlimited opportunities for contagion afforded by the manner in which poultry are raised, in this country at least, in association with cattle in stable and yards.

(That report brings to mind the trouble experienced some years ago on the farm of Ex-Governor Levi P. Morton, of New York. His herd of cattle were infected with tuberculosis, and as the fowls of his farm were allowed to run in the pasture where the sick cows were kept, they were taken sick and hundreds died. The attention of experts was called to the fact, and, after making several post mortems, it was decided that the chickens became infected with the same disease. At least so the reports said that reached us. But the investigations made by Dr. Dinwiddie seem to say not. We believe these experiments have been scientifically made, and we are inclined to accept them—EDITOR.)

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Skim Milk—Linseed Meal—Green Cut Bone—Feeding During Molting—The Art of Feeding—Apples—Variety in the Bill of Fare—Milk as a Substitute for Meat.

Oats for muscle.

Wheat for feather.

Learn how to feed.

Corn is of little use for molting fowls.

Bone meal is excellent for making feathers.

Don't feed heavily today and starve your fowls tomorrow.

When shedding their feathers fowls need feed rich in nitrogen.

It will always be found to be best to feed according to the breed.

Molting fowls need something very nutritious, something that will make feathers.

Large fowls that are inclined to take on too much fat may be fed lean meat to advantage.

Keep up a study of the business and feed according to what seems to be best for results desired.

To keep a hen in good condition for laying, she should never have a full crop during the day.

It will require 7 pounds of skim milk to equal one pound of lean beef for flesh forming qualities.

The hen can see the smallest seed on the ground, and every square inch of the surface is carefully searched.

When the hens have been fed on grain exclusively, they soon begin to show the effects of a sameness of diet.

Fowls need a variety of food, but it should be given them at a certain fixed time, and not too much at a time.

The poultry raiser who does not now feed his flocks with a definite idea or purpose, is greatly behind the times.

It is not difficult to feed a complete ration. The addition of a simple article to a hen's ration may make an excellent layer of her.

The gill of linseed meal contains more bone-forming matter than a pint and a half of corn, and as much nitrogen as three gills of corn.

A gill of linseed meal to a pint of corn will increase the ration to a value equal to two pints of corn, so far as nutrition is concerned.

The days of haphazard feeding of poultry, and the lazy man's method of throwing out corn to the flocks in quantity, are fast becoming obsolete. Promiscuous feeding to a promiscuous lot of fowls will be disappointing and the sooner we know the relationship between food and fowls the better it will be for the business.

There are three kinds of food necessary besides the minerals—lime, soda, potash—to produce feathers, bone and muscle in fowls in the right proportion to make them vigorous egg producers.

Active birds like the Leghorn should not be fed liberally. It is a waste of time and feed to do so, as they can pick up two or three times as much as they can assimilate.

The allowance of green food, if but a small one, will have a beneficial effect. They will be more thrifty, will more

easily digest their food, and keep in a condition more favorable to laying.

Some of the grains, such as wheat, oats and buckwheat, furnish quite an amount of all the elements needed, lime included, but as such foods are not perfectly balanced with all the hen requires, they serve her purpose only a short time.

Fowls can be successfully and profitably kept in confinement, but the keeper should remember they depend entirely upon him for their food and he should give them regularly all that a healthy digestion can bear without harm, and to do this requires experience.

Healthy digestion is what is wanted, but it can never be obtained when their food is thrown down upon the ground and they pick it up as fast as possible—the stronger ones getting more than they need, driving the weaker ones away without enough to supply their wants.

G. O. Brown says a recent experiment proves that green cut bone so increases the production of eggs that it would pay to feed the bone even if 20 cents per pound had to be paid for it. In the face of this there are plenty of people who doubt the advantage of feeding raw cut bone.

A splendid feed during molting is as follows: Take equal parts of bone and linseed meal, mixed with equal parts of bran and ground oats; it should be fed once a day, with wheat the meal following. If fed in this way they will all be through molting in 6 or 8 weeks.

Watch the peculiarities of your flock. One fowl may starve while the others are fattening. Fowls have their likes and dislikes as well as people, and their tastes must be studied. And no kind of feed they dislike should be forced upon them. If you do, your fowls will suffer, both in condition and plumage.

Cheap food must not be estimated by the price paid for it in the market. The cheapest food for the poultryman or farmer is that which gives him the largest number of eggs. It matters not what the food costs, so long as the eggs correspond. It is the product by which we should measure and estimate.

There are a great many people in every community who have killed and dressed poultry all through their lives and have seen sand in the gizzards of the fowls so dressed, but have never thought that they could put it in their soft feed, and by so doing assist them in digestion; and it will also often save them from an attack of diarrhoea, especially when confined.

Throw an apple into the poultry yard, and notice how quickly it will be picked to pieces, says Mr. Jacobs. When the hens are in the orchard they will not notice apples, though apples may be plentiful, because when on the range they can secure quite a variety of feed, but now that they must be fed grain without the green food, an apple becomes a luxury. There is but little nutriment in the apple, but it is succulent, and serves the purpose of the hens as a change of diet,

Regularity and moderation in feeding poultry are two very important points to be observed, and one cannot succeed in raising poultry unless they are kept in mind. No matter how nice a breed you have, even if you buy your chickens direct from some prominent fancier, if you do not feed them properly they will be sure to degenerate and you will be disappointed. They must be fed regularly, and their food must be wholesome. Avoid overloading and crowding their digestive organs with more than can be easily digested.

Mrs. Ella Thomas, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says: The frequent admonition to feed a variety of food is not given simply to gratify the desires of our birds, but for another purpose. As we expect them to produce eggs, and eggs that will hatch vigorous chicks, it is necessary to give the right kind of food. If we feed nothing but corn, our hens become very fat, as corn is rich in carbon and their bodies are kept warm from the heat created; but while fat and apparently in good condition, their bones and tissues gradually waste away and they droop and die without apparent cause.

We are often asked if milk cannot be used as a substitute for meat, says P. H. Jacobs, in *Poultry Keeper*. The fact is, milk is superior to meat, as it is a complete food; but when we realize that meat is concentrated, compared with milk, the difficulty of substituting milk for meat is plainly seen, for the hens cannot drink enough of the milk, there being about 86 per cent. of water in it. That is, to derive 14 pounds of solid matter from milk, the hens must drink 86 pounds of water in the milk, which requires quite a length of time.

Turkey Culture.

A Miscellaneous Lot of Facts as Drawn from the Experiences of Both American and English Turkey Growers.

Large birds realize more per pound in proportion than the small ones.

Care must be taken not to mix the meal too sticky or too dry, but just so that it clings together nicely.

No stock pays better, for proper feeding and a little extra care, than young turkeys, says W. Cook, in *Poultry*.

Those birds which are intended for killing at Christmas should have a hot meal before they are allowed out in the mornings.

Turkeys will drink occasionally during incubation, but usually decline much food, and consequently come out of hatching time rather poor and then need hearty food.

After turkeys are about 8 weeks old, they do better if allowed to sleep out in the open, with no covering over them, than if put in a warm close house.

What in the feathered creation is more magnificent than a fine flock of turkeys whether displaying their gorgeous coloring in the sun, or strutting through woods and fields in quest of food.

Turkeys like to roost as high as possible in the house; therefore, the perches should be on a level to prevent them breathing foul air, as they are more subject to roup and cold than any other fowls.

It should always be borne in mind that unless the stock birds are large it is impossible to get the young ones to a good weight; therefore it is best to purchase the largest and finest stock obtainable to breed from.

Many farmers allow their young turkeys to run in the stubble fields, which is a good plan, as they not only pick up a great deal of loose corn, but often get dainty morsels of green stuff, besides which they have plenty of fresh air and exercise.

Let no novice in this business suppose he can succeed without great care and prudence. Young turkeys are the most tender of all young fowls and need the most care. This care commences with a good selection of the finest, earliest and heaviest turkeys for breeders.

Old henwives assure us that as geese regulate the commencement of their laying by the feast of Candlemas, so turkeys always lay their first eggs on Good Friday, regardless of the movability of the fast. But it is generally found that they begin to lay from March 15th to the end of the month.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Selection of Breeding Stock—The Eider Duck—The Vale of Aylesbury—A Fable—Col. Roessle's Method of Feeding.

Improve the quality.

Duck laying season is over.

Transfer the ducklings to the brooder at night.

Forty dressed ducklings are packed in a barrel for shipment.

Some growers find the sale of ducks' eggs a source of profit.

The duck averages about 120 eggs in about 7 months' laying.

New York and Boston are the two leading markets for the improved duck.

Much depends upon the vigor of the stock, and to secure fertility of eggs birds over three years of age should not be employed.

Col. E. O. Roessle says it requires experience and knowledge of their nature to produce a first-class duckling that will weigh 5 pounds in 10 weeks.

Duck egg shells are very thick; therefore, are more slowly affected by heat or cold. They retain the heat even better than hen's eggs, and it consequently is more difficult to cool them.

To make market ducks pay they must be fed largely on cheap, bulky food like chopped green corn, cut grass and clover, chopped vegetables mixed with grain, and the like, also wheat bran and meat scraps.

In selecting stock for breeding, size of frame, length of body and general activity should be sought for. Without size of body we cannot expect to obtain large ducklings, and the larger they are the better prices they will command.

As the development of the air cell is the all important part in artificial hatching, and as air increases the air cell and moisture retards it, duck's eggs require much more air than hen's eggs, when the moisture and other conditions are equal.

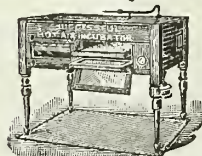
In Iceland the Eider duck is a great source of wealth as a producer of the famous down. They are very large and easily handled, having been domesticated thoroughly. The color of the duck is a gray and brown mottle, while the drake is black and white.

The Vale of Aylesbury is the great centre for duck rearing in England, says the *Shooting Times*. None of the duck farms are large—probably from half an acre to an acre. This is utterly devoid of vegetation on the surface, the grass being worn away by the dabble of countless feet. The ducks that are confined in orchards are as a rule much more healthy looking than those which are kept in the open. Doubtless the trees take up as a food much of the manurial foulness of the soil.

Here is a fable by *Farm, Field and Fireside*: A duck which faithfully stuck to business during the summer months and laid several dozen of large fawn-colored eggs complained that she wasn't appreciated. "See that hen over there?" said the duck, "she hasn't laid as many eggs as I have, nor as big, but she has books written about her and verses composed in her honor, while nobody is saying a word about me." "The trouble with you is," said a wise rooster that was standing near, "that you don't tell the public what you have done. You lay an egg and waddle off without saying a word, but that sister of mine never lays one without letting everybody in the neighborhood know it. If you want to cut any ice in this community you must learn to advertise."

Col. E. O. Roessle, in *Country Gentleman*, says: "Many experiments have been made in feeding ducklings. I have tried many different methods myself, but there is one on which I have settled that has given me the best results. It is simply cornmeal and bran from start to finish, from hatch to killing time. The proportions of course are changed as the duckling grows. The meal and bran should be made into a moist mash, not sloppy, but more moist than is used for chickens. A feed board should be used, rather than risking the chance of their trampling the food in the earth. To every mess of mash made, a certain proportion of coarse black or builders' sand should be added. For example, to a 12-quart pailful of mash add a half-pint cupful of sand; stir it well into the mash, so that it is mixed thoroughly."

A Great Mistake



it would be to purchase an Incubator or Brooder without first getting a copy of our 148-page catalogue. It costs 6c. but is worth a dollar to you for the poultry information it contains, to say nothing of the pointers it gives you. Send for it at once.

DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 423, Des Moines, Ia.

Geese for Profit.

Valuable Pointers Taken From the 1897 Report of the Rhode Island Experimental Station.

Embsen geese make excellent mothers. Comparatively few pick any geese alive as in former days.

The product of geese depends largely upon their liberty and food.

Geese are peculiar, in that both sexes are feathered exactly alike.

The Brown and White China are sometimes termed "bantam geese."

The Canada gander is a pretty sure and valuable breeder for many years.

Brown and White China geese are not very largely bred, even in a pure state.

The Canada goose lays usually from 6 to 9 eggs, but occasionally lays more in a domestic state.

There is considerable difficulty in distinguishing ganders from geese, especially when young.

The Toulouse are nearer non-sitting than any other variety, but some individuals make good mothers.

The Toulouse is susceptible to greater growth for extra care, but the Embsen is better grown under neglect.

Embsen goslings when hatched are of a rich yellow color, which changes to white as the quill feathers grow.

STEYER'S LICE POWDER is a good disinfectant for poultry houses.

Moulting Fowls

need help. Therefore give them our **Banner Moulting Powder**. It shortens the moulting period, and supplies what is necessary to help them get their new coat of feathers.

25 Cents per Can, 5 Cans, \$1.00,

Or for SEPTEMBER only we will sell 7 Cans of

BANNER MOULTING POWDER

for \$1.00. Send your order in now and save money. Our immense Illustrated Catalogue free, if you mention where you saw the adv.

Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co.,

W. V. RUSS, Proprietor,

No. 28 Vesey Street, New York City.

R. I. REDS. Cockerels for sale at \$1 to \$2 each. J. E. Bean, Davisville, N. H.

A Record
to be of value must be backed by continued worthy deeds. The **Prairie State Incubators and Brooders** have increased their first premiums to 200 in competition with the best. Send for 1898 catalogue, giving full description. Handsome colored plates. **We warrant every machine.** *Prairie State Incubator Co. Homer City, Pa.*

CHILD'S WYANDOTTES SILVER AND WHITE.

WM. H. CHILD, . . . HATBORO, PA.

Goslings well natched are seldom lost, except through accident or exposure to hard storms while still very young. The wild or Canada goose is bred pure in a domestic state perhaps more extensively than the Brown and White Chinas.

One breeder of experience has known a wild goose to lay 19 eggs in a single season, but such productiveness is very rare.

Toulouse geese usually lay more eggs in a season than Embden or African geese, but not as many as the best China geese.

African geese have a more erect carriage than either the Toulouse or Embdens, but not so erect as the modern Brown and White Chinas.

Geese are less liable to disease than any other domestic fowl, which, possibly, may count in some measure for their generally long life.

The notes of the Africans resemble those of the Brown and White China much more than those of the Toulouse and Embden geese.

Some goose raisers says that geese seldom get too old to be good breeders, while occasionally one prefers them from 2 to 5 years old.

Many so-called "Brown Chinas" are much too heavy in weight, and not sufficiently erect in form to be classed as pure specimens of that breed.

The mating of Canada and African geese produces a mongrel strongly resembling the Canada goose in color of plumage and distinguishing marks.

Some experienced breeders determine the sexes by the difference in the voice, but that is a knowledge gained only by considerable acquaintance with geese.

Toulouse geese are quiet and peaceable, and more easily confined by stone fences than other breeds, and would be more likely to be contented in close quarters.

The Embden considerably resembles the Toulouse in form, having descended without doubt from the same parent stock, but must be pure white in surface color.

The business of goose raising is of necessity somewhat restricted. It cannot be conducted in such a wholesale concentrated manner as is duck raising at the present time.

The Toulouse is massive in appearance and has probably reached a greater weight than any other variety—60 pounds per pair having been recorded at an American exhibition.

Bailey says much difficulty is often experienced in selecting the sexes and although practiced men are seldom mistaken, yet even they can lay down no rule that is easy to follow.

The Embden are inclined to lay a little earlier than the Toulouse, and their eggs average a trifle heavier, but they do not lay quite as many eggs, and are much more persistent sitters.

The form, size, length of neck, and size of head, are some indications of sex as the geese approach maturity—the gander being heavier, with a longer neck and larger head than the goose.

China geese are not favorites with those who raise goslings for sale to poultrymen who fatten them and put on the

market as green geese. They are too small to be profitable for such a market.

The Toulouse breed takes its name from one of the cities in southern France, although it was from Marseilles, a city in the southeast of France, that this goose was first imported into England.

In dressing Canada geese for market, the feathers of the head, two-thirds or more of the neck, the wings and tail are left on the bird, and serve to identify and guarantee the genuineness of its breeding.

Barring accidents, good geese may be profitably kept until 25 or more years old; ganders of the domestic varieties, however, are less useful after 7 or 8 years, and should be replaced with young birds.

There is evidently considerable intermixture of African blood in many so-called Brown Chinas, as is evidenced by the tendency to develop a dewlap, as well as the larger size and more horizontal carriage of the body.

The feathers obtained from the goslings fattened and killed for market are quite a source of income to the large dealer, as a good gosling will yield about enough feathers at present prices to pay the cost of picking.

When a small boned, moderate sized goose is required for the fall or Christmas trade, the China geese would prove valuable, as they lay well, and, with proper care in selecting breeding stock, large flocks should be raised.

When purebred, the Toulouse are better for the Thanksgiving and Christmas trade than for dressing as "green geese" at 12 weeks old, but crossed with the Embden or African breeds they grow more rapidly and mature earlier.

Canada goslings are hardy little fellows, imbued with some of the independence and self-reliance born of an ancestral life in the woods and fields not many generations back. They are of a muddy green color, with dark bill and legs.

The Canada female likes a secluded place for nest making, where she will be free from disturbance, and, like the wild or wild-cross hen turkey, is liable to steal away to some unfre-

quented spot which she can use for that purpose.

The Toulouse matures more slowly than other varieties, and in order to look well when dressed requires to be well fattened, so as to fill out the loose skin forming the abdominal pouch which characterizes this breed even when a few weeks old.

Embden goslings are generally hardy and grow rapidly; their perfectly white color makes the dressing of them as "green geese" an easy matter as compared with that of dark colored birds, and when put on the market they are not excelled in appearance.

Ganders occasionally take very peculiar freaks, such as conceiving a violent attachment for some inanimate object, as a door, stone, a cart wheel, a plow, or something of a similar nature, when they will spend the greater part of their time sitting beside it or in its company.

While the young gander often mates with 3 or 4 females, he usually has one particular favorite among the number, whose nest he guards more jealously than those of his other mates, and after some years he is liable to grow so inattentive to all but the favorite that many of the eggs produced prove to be infertile, and it is more economical to replace him with a younger bird.

[Continued on page 40.]

Poultry



to be profitable, must lay well in winter when eggs are high. To induce winter laying you should feed liberally of the greatest egg producer known, green cut bone—not dried bone.

Webster & Hannum

BONE CUTTER

is the most popular among practical poultrymen. It runs with half the power of others, requiring but one hand to operate and is the only one which cuts bone fine enough for young chicks. It also cuts meat, gristle and vegetables without clogging. This is why it received the only award at World's Fair, Chicago.

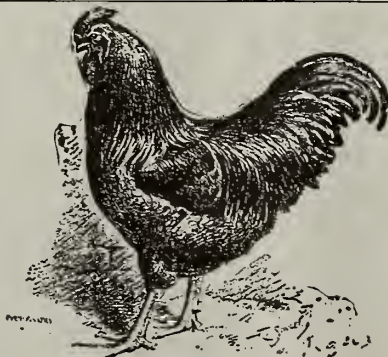
Read what F. E. Dawley, Director of Farmers' Institutes of New York State, says:

"I would urge every one who keeps fowls to feed green bone if they are after profit, and from experience would say, get a Webster & Hannum Cutter to do the work with. I am not at all interested in the sale of the Webster & Hannum Cutter, and have paid full price for the one I use, so have no axe to grind."

Stearns Clover Cutters and Grit Crushers are a necessity to every poultry yard. A scientific treatise on

poultry feeding, with catalogue of bone cutters, clover cutters, grit crushers, etc., will be mailed free to all applying for it.

F. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6 Syracuse, N. Y.



THERE'S NOTHING BETTER

to improve a flock of common fowls than a Rhode Island Red male. He will give the progeny snap, ginger and profitable qualities, and strongly influence their color. Either rose or single comb males, fair quality in Sept. and Oct., at \$3 each. Several \$2 each. Positively, no low priced males sold in winter or spring. Orders booked now. Circular and price list free.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate peragate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Are You Ready? Are you ready for a brisk fall trade? There will be big business dealt out to advertisers in A FEW HENS—are you ready for it? Of course you know that we have a class of readers that are invaluable to advertisers. We have told you of it before, and if you have patronized our columns the past year you have found out that what we said is so.

You also know that our readers are no fanciers. They have no use for the fancy, high-bred Standard bird, for the reason that there is no guarantee for eggs and meat from such a fowl. Likewise they have no use for mongrels. They recognize the fact that such birds are more of a risk than a gain. While we occasionally may find an excellent layer in a common hen, just as we are apt to find an extra milker in a scrub cow, we know that, as a class, they are not to be relied upon.

Did you ever hear of a successful poultry farm on which nothing but dunghills were kept? Did you ever hear of an egg farmer who got his product from high-scoring Standard stock? No, it is just about as profitable to keep the one lot as the other.

But you have heard of successful egg and table poultry farms where *thorough-breds* are doing the work. Our readers want strictly pure blooded stock, and they want the breeds to have all the characteristics or trade marks peculiar to themselves, but they do not want extravagance practiced to enlarge upon those characteristics. Let well enough alone. Do not sacrifice the practical part for mere fancy. Ask any practical poultryman if he would breed his stock that were up to Standard weight. He would at once tell you that such a condition cannot produce fertile eggs or many of them.

To make a long story short, A FEW HENS' readers are in the business of raising eggs and carcasses for table use. Now have you stock for sale that have been bred for that purpose? They want a score on the egg record, the breast, the back, and all the practical points of the fowl, and not on the style of the bird, and the correctness of the feather.

Last year a friend of the editor thought he would try advertising in A FEW HENS. He told of the high scores he won at

such and such shows, by a very able judge. He did not sell enough stock to pay the advertising. Another friend in the same issues, told of the record his birds had made in producing eggs, he told of their merits as a table fowl, and he had more business than he could well take care of. He never expected any such trade. But it all goes to show what are the ideas of our readers.

Now is the time to start a contract. The early advertiser, like the early bird, catches what he is after. The paper is little in size, but big in results, for a few good reasons:

First.—All the matter is boiled down for busy people, so that they get more in one issue than in four copies of lots of papers. That is an advantage the readers appreciate.

Second.—The advertisers benefit therefrom, because all advertisements are in full view of the readers. The advertiser who starts early this year in A FEW HENS, and keeps at it for six months or a year, will "catch the worm," or in other words catch the early orders, as well as the late ones, for the simple reason that it is the steady advertiser whose advertisements attract careful, profitable customers. From such advertisers readers are most likely to order as wanted.

Again, you do not have to use all creation in space to make a show in the compact pages of A FEW HENS. A 10-line advertisement for six months costs only \$1.00 per month, and such an advertisement has some show to be seen in a paper made up like A FEW HENS.

If you advertise in A FEW HENS—

Little Advertisements,
Little money spent,
Brings you many orders
Makes you heart content.

This may not be poetry, but it is a fact. Try it. Prove it. Come early and avoid the crowd later on. The paper is right; price is right.

Order now, and you will later sing—

Early to bed,
Early to rise,
We never get left,
We advertise—in A FEW HENS.

A Voice from Chile. Our friends and admirers do not all live in the United States.

This country cannot hold them. We have subscribers all over the world, and these foreign subscribers are great friends of A FEW HENS. Just to show you the high esteem these cousins of ours have for our efforts, read the following:

"A copy of A FEW HENS has reached me by the last post, and I have read its contents from the left hand upper corner of the front cover, to the right hand bottom column of the back cover, and its wonderful value has so thoroughly impressed me that I hasten to drop into your coffer the widow's mite, that the subscription amounts to. Your paper deserves the same relationship to the poultry industry that Webster's Dictionary has attained with the English language. Please put my name on your mailing list in ink that will never fade." Believe me, respectfully,

C. H. R. Norton, Valparaiso, Chile.

There are Others. Emile Van Overbike, Louisville, Ky.: "A FEW HENS can't be beat.

It is O. K."

Brown Bros., Pontiac, Mich.: "We are subscribers to your poultry journal, as well as to several others. But we are more pleased with your pointed way of stating things, as well as the great amount of practical information it contains."

B. P. Mulley, Louisville, Ky.: "Your little paper is all right; the best I ever read."

H. C. Herbert, Irvington, N. J.: "Your paper is certainly a gem of conciseness, and an encyclopedia of useful knowledge to poultry raisers and poultry users."

Mrs. I. N. Evans, Milledgeville, Ill.: "I take six poultry papers. Next year I shall take only two: A FEW HENS and *Farm-Poultry*. Should I take only one, it would be A FEW HENS."

Friendly Editors. It is a pleasure to note the continued friendly attitude of our brother editors to A FEW HENS. Nearly every issue of nearly every poultry publication, has some kind comment to make. Here is one which appeared in last month's issue of the *Southern Fancier*:

"We are glad that Brother Boyer hit upon the idea of publishing A FEW HENS. We need it in our business. Whenever we require something short and meaty, to fill out a column, or diversify a page, all we have to do is to take our scissors and cut almost anywhere in the paper and the trick is done.

"Every poultryman should have A FEW HENS, and we are going to make a present of a year's subscription to every subscriber of the *Southern Fancier*. When you send your 50 cents for a year's subscription to us state that you want A FEW HENS also."

We are glad if our paper is of service to other editors. Help yourselves, gentlemen. But the *Fancier* cannot get ahead of us in that sharp trick of giving away our paper to its subscribers. We'll take revenge by doing the same. Send us the 50 cents, and we'll send you the *Fancier* one year, and throw in a year's subscription to A FEW HENS. The *Fancier* is the oldest poultry journal in the South.

Iowa Hens. George Reeder, Muscatine, Ia., writes as follows:

"They may talk about what the Kansas and Nebraska hens can do, or what the Eastern hens can do, but the enclosed clipping taken from our evening journal shows what a few hens from Iowa can do. I send you this for what it is worth. What Cheer is a small town 75 miles west of here, but situated in a fine farming country. It has about 3,000 inhabitants."

The clipping referred to is as follows:

"A What Cheer man shipped a car load of 5,000 chickens to New York. They laid eggs enough en route to pay the freight on the car load. That is paying their own way with a vengeance."

A Trap Chas. P. Hobart, Southington, Conn., writes:

"To the Editor of the Boss of American Poultry Papers:

The monthly visits of your plain, practical, common sense paper, A FEW HENS, to our home the last two years, has made us feel as well acquainted with you as we should with a formal introduction, and we say, 'Please shake!'

"We have raised purebred poultry in a small way (rearing about 125 chicks per year), for the last 16 years, during which time we have constantly subscribed for two or more poultry journals (we now take seven), and can honestly say we never took one that was more welcome than A FEW HENS.

"We have been much interested in your trap nest contest, and the thought that our experience in that line might be of interest, and possibly help some breeder, prompts us to address you.

"We have used trap nests of our own construction for several years, and it is mainly to their help that we are indebted for the excellent egg producing qualities of our White Wyandottes, records of whole pens ranging from 178 to 203 eggs each, per year.

"When a boy, at the old home, we used trap nests similar to the old figure 4 rabbit trap, but later on improved it by the one we are now using, which can be made as follows:

"Take a shoe box and alter it over to 22 inches long, 14 inches wide, and 19 inches deep. Into this fit a false bottom loosely with a hinge at front end, and a small strip one inch wide, reaching two inches through a slot in the rear box. Then make a slat door 9 inches square to move up and down easily, and connect at the top of door with a small weight at rear of box, and a catch to hold the weight by a cord. When the hen steps on the nest the catch will loosen, and the weight falling draws the door up and the hen is caught.

"I forgot to add, there should be a landing inside, 4 inches wide at bottom of door, so the hen can come to the front of nest, after depositing her egg, and thus avoid the danger of breaking the egg in her excitement if left confined too long.

"For convenience, though not necessary, the top may be hinged and thus form a handy door to gather the eggs from. I have used these nests without a single miss in the whole year, so consider them practically reliable.

"Now if some reader of A FEW HENS is saved a dollar, we shall feel amply repaid for our trouble, only claiming the credit of the suggestion for ourselves. 'Live and let live' we think a very good motto."

Poultry Advertising. Frank B. White, the popular poultry advertising man, read a paper at the meeting of the National Fanciers' Association, Chicago, Aug. 2, 1899, that contains many good pointers. We regret that we have room for only a brief extract:

"I am interested in the poultry question not simply from a fanciers point of view, but from the broader (and I believe more practical and substantial

point of view) the commercial side of the question.

"The question of food and supply is occupying the minds of thinking people throughout the whole wide world; so while I am interested in feathers, I am also interested in meat, and I believe there is no better meat for human food than poultry.

"The question that confronts you is, 'How can I make my poultry yard pay, yield a profit, bring returns sufficient to warrant the expenditure in time and money?'

"I cannot conceive of a poultryman making his business profitable without advertising. He must advertise in some form or other.

"A good name in advertising is the best stock in trade that can be inventoried. It will not burn up. If you invest \$100 in advertising judiciously, you may consider that you have added to your stock in trade a value which—though you cannot weigh it on your scales—is just as important as though you were to invest in stock, supplies, or anything else that may be a necessity in your business. There are many institutions today the good will of which is worth more than all material, fixtures, and, in fact, all else that pertains to the business.

"To advertise successfully there are several things that should be taken into consideration, and the more essential are these: The careful preparation of advertisements, attractive, argumentative, forceful, truthful, and do not try to advertise others—advertise yourself, placing these advertisements in papers of worth—papers that go into the homes of the buying class—those most likely to be interested in what you have to say.

"I wish that there might be some method of handling the poultry product commercially in a way that would lift it above commonality and place it where I believe it belongs, as one of the best and most substantial products of the land. When we consider that \$3,000,000 is Uncle Sam's part of the poultry business, it is not difficult to

understand why so many of our best business men are giving heed to the question. The dairy product of the country is getting the advantage of us in that it is putting up its product for domestic use—its butter and milk, in finer shape than it did in former years, and more pleasing to the good housewife. Some of our standard creameries are putting up butter in delicate packages and commanding from 3 to 25 cents more a pound than butter of equally as good quality of other institutions. It is simply because they expend a little in advertising and a nice label and neat package. I believe that thousands of people in the city of Chicago would be willing to pay 5, 10 or 20 cents more a dozen for eggs if they could be assured that they came direct from the poultry yards and were guaranteed by a reliable poultryman to be fresh. To do this there could be a package containing, say, 1, 2, 3, or 5 dozen, each gotten up neatly and attractively, with the guarantee printed on it to the effect that every egg was fresh, and in case one discovered that one was not, within a given time, a dozen should be given for every one thus found. Do you think for a moment that our best families would not willingly pay the extra price rather than to take their chances with the ruffraff that comes through the corner grocery disinterested method of handling them? A stale egg is an abomination.

"A dressed fowl should be, in my

WHY not use Steyer's Lice Powder? It will increase the egg yield.

Prairie State Incubators

at bargain, if taken soon. Four 300-egg; one 400-egg; two Special Duck, 288 eggs; 80 ft. Brooder System. All good order. Marybrook Ranch, Fannettsburg, Pa.

Poultry

XXXXXXXXXX

Netting

XXXXXXXXXX

in Short Pieces.

11-2 inch mesh, No. 19 wire, galvanized; in bundles of one thousand square feet, for \$3.50; three bundles, \$9.00. Stock limited. Order today. Our circulars give net prices of Poultry Netting.

JAMES S. CASE,
Colchester, Ct.,
New England Agent for
M. M. S. Poultry Fencing.

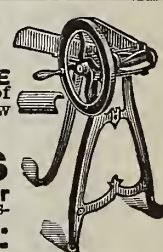



BIG MONEY IN EGGS

if you can only get enough of them at the lowest cost. **GREEN CUT BONE** solves the problem. It doubles the egg product. It makes hens lay in the dead of winter when eggs are worth money. It keeps the hen laying. It makes chicks grow fast and mature early, and makes early layers of the pullets.

MANN'S NEW BONE CUTTERS

prepare bone in the best way. Cut fast, run easy, last long. Mann's Clover Cutter, Granite Crystal Crit and Swinging Feed Trays are all necessary to highest success. Cash or installments. Illustrated catalogue sent free. **F. W. MANN CO., Box 67 MILFORD, MASS.**





THE ADAM GREEN BONE CUTTER


This is the Bone Cutter

— and indeed the only one which is equipped with ball bearings. That's why it runs so easily. It cuts on the shear plate principle. No gouging, crushing or breaking of bone into pieces or dangerous bone splinters.

Leaves a Shaving of Bone,

fine and easily consumed by fowl or chick. Easiest to clean — cleans itself. Feeds at will of operator. Strong and durable. Large capacity. Made in various sizes for hand and power. Write for our illustrated Catalogue No. 1, prices, etc.

W. J. ADAM, JOLIET, ILL.



judgment, packed in a neat box, wrapped in paraffin paper, neatly labeled, and not hung up, exposed and thrown about as if it were of no consequence. And if it were so packed, and the name of the poultryman printed neatly on the package, don't you think that our good wives would be eager to have them in preference to those that are taken out of the barrel, dirty, skinny, filthy, even though the price might be one-half? Every one that you thus sold would become an advertisement for you and there would soon be an inquiry. An enterprising farmer in central New York conceived this idea some time ago and has no trouble in getting 5 cents a dozen more in the Syracuse market for his eggs from a merchant. If I were out of business and wanted something to do that would pay me big, I would arrange with a dozen good poultry breeders to supply me with eggs at a given price, and I would have my regular customers and make 5 to 20 cents a dozen on them year in and year out. But I would put a little work on it; a little advertising in it; and I would do it in first-class shape—do it well and command good pay for my labor; cheap things are not wanted; it is quality that counts.

"There is expended upwards of \$100,000 a year in poultry, poultry supplies, incubator and brooder lines of advertising through agencies alone. These institutions have all become prosperous through advertising. The foundation and ground work of their business is advertising. Is not that testimony enough for you of its worth?"

"You do not have to do a large amount of it if you have a few birds, but if you have some choice ones you can afford to do a little. Of course stock is necessary. I have presumed that you knew that. Unless you have something worthy of advertising it would not pay you. A poor thing will never pay as an advertising proposition. It may for a moment, but the buying public soon takes its measure. But an article of worth not only pays, but creates and establishes your reputation in your particular line of trade, and carries your good name beyond into wider circles, yielding profits in years to come."

A Practical Mayflower Lodge Poultry Farm.

Mayflower Lodge Poultry Farm, So. Braintree, Mass., owned and operated by William G. Davis, is devoted to the raising of poultry and eggs for table use. They solicit family trade, and in order to do it, have gotten out a small booklet that is by far the most novel and prettiest advertising matter of the kind that we have yet seen. On the cover page an outside view of the poultry houses is given. The inside of the leaflet shows a portion of the incubator room, interior of brooder house, exterior of brooder house, flocks of broilers and roasters, interior of hen house, and some of the laying stock.

The proprietor states that it is his object to supply his patrons with all kinds of poultry, freshly killed, as ordered, and positively new-laid eggs all the year round at regular market prices. Two or more deliveries a week are made directly from the farm to residences,

and careful attention will be given to orders for any amount. Also special orders for parties, etc., at short notice.

One thousand eggs (the capacity of their incubators) are hatched every month throughout the year. These eggs are from their own stock of special breeding pens of White Wyandottes and Barred Plymouth Rock hens.

When hatched the chicks are placed in the brooders and there cared for as long as the season requires. This brooder house is 60 feet long, with ample and convenient space under roof for indoor yards which are also connected with outside yards for fine weather.

Special attention is given to the Philadelphia style of broiler. Marketable as individual broilers 10 to 12 weeks from the shell. Their peculiar method of feeding and care has brought this branch of their industry up to the high standard of perfection. Orders will be filled for broilers from 3-4 to 2 1-2 pounds each.

Careful selection is made from their flocks for chickens to roast; and, owing to their being exclusively grain-fed, they are particularly delicious for the table. For the growing demand of capons, they at all times keep a number to supply the demand. The fowls sold are yearling hens, and compare favorably with many chickens that are in the markets.

Referring to eggs, they say: "We have the brown egg strain, and guarantee every egg to be fresh-laid when delivered. We aim to have this branch of our industry of as high standard of excellence as is our poultry for market. Our laying stock is essentially fed on the best white wheat, it being acknowledged the best egg producer, also furnishing the richest qualities."

Judge "Uncle Isaac" Felch is probably the best known poultryman in the United States. Well has it been said he is the "Father of American Poultry Culture." For two years, while living in Massachusetts,

American Trap Nest Box

Picks out the business hen, and will prevent and cure egg eating. Plans \$1.00. Circulars.

J. H. WOODHEAD, Box 236, Leicester, Mass.

STEYER'S LICE POWDER does the work. See advertisement.

WHITE LEGHORN PLACE.

Some very choice yearlings and young stock for sale, only \$1.00. Eggs in season. Write quick.

W. H. WARREN, Specialist, Ransomville, N. Y.

the writer met the Sage of Natick almost daily, and on many a long drive did we listen to experiences and events in the life time of Mr. Felch, as told by himself, which, given in that style for which he is so peculiar, were intensely interesting.

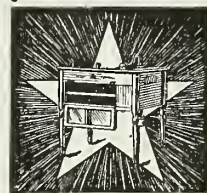
We shall never forget the story of his first appearance at Spokane. It is as fresh upon our mind today as it was the day he told it.

"Boyer," he said, "for 40 years I have labored hard to upbuild the poultry interests in this country. I made enemies by so doing, and yet I never once made a move that was not done from honest purpose at heart. In all that time there was not an association that seemed to think well enough of me to present a souvenir so that I might in after years be reminded of their good will. You can well imagine my feelings while at Spokane, away out west of the Rockies, right out among what I might as well term strangers—when I was led by the arm to the centre of the room, and in a neat and complimentary speech by President Dwight, presented with this splendid pair of large field glasses."

There was moisture in the grand old man's eyes as he straightened out his large form, threw back his shoulders, and continued:

IN EVERY TEST THE

Star Incubator



hatches the largest percentage of chicks—strong chicks, too. That's why experienced poultrymen are discarding all others.

Positive directions for ventilation. Requires no moisture.

Our \$10 Star Brooder is unequalled. Catalogue for the asking.

STAR INCUBATOR COMPANY,
22 Church Street, Bound Brook, N. J.

Dulany & Branin,

(Successors to Haines & Branin.)

Commission Merchants,

Philadelphia Poultry; Broilers, Roasters, Fancy Capons, Squabs and Eggs.

Nos. 41, 43 and 45 Hewitt Avenue,
West Washington Market, NEW YORK CITY.

SCRATCHING SHEDS

would be a mistake if they were intended for convenient places for hens to "scratch," on account of the lice. Like all our enemies, lice are always with us. To defeat these murderous pests requires an article that will "touch the spot" the moment it is applied. There are many preparations on the market, and they no doubt deserve considerable praise, but we know that there is no article that will do the work like **STEYER'S LICE POWDER**. It is a combination of several valuable articles, each one of which would in itself be effective—the combination, however, makes it all the more prompt in its action. At all times it is safe to handle. Endorsed by Michael K. Boyer, editor A FEW HENS.

Large sample package sent prepaid for 15 cents.

A. F. STEYER & CO., 2605 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.



Hatch CHICKENS

WITH THE
EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher.

CEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturer, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

WITH THE
Wooden Hen

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 50 egg capacity. Catalogs Free.



"I said, 'I have not yet looked through these glasses, but I will do so now, taking my first view of the kind faces of the members of the Spokane Poultry Association, the donors of this beautiful token of their esteem.' Thereupon I adjusted the glasses and leveled them upon the assembly, taking a good look at each one. But the view I saw through those glasses was not one that I expected. I saw that entire assemblage giving three rousing cheers. I was given both optional and oral evidence of the enthusiasm of my Spokaue friends."

It was worth going miles to hear Judge Felch tell of this act of friendship, and if the Spokane donors could only know how he loves to tell the story, the earnestness he displays, and the smile on his face as he shows the trophy, they would feel doubly glad that they have thus honored him.

Good Edgar Allen, West Gloucester, Mass., writes: "I am a subscriber to your little egg machine—A FEW HENS—and read it with interest every month, especially Experimental Farm Notes. I am running a two-acre poultry and vegetable farm myself, only with this difference: Yours is experimental; mine is a 'ground hog' case, it has *got to pay*, or we go hungry."

"I notice in the August issue you give the average egg yield per hen, for the first six months this year from White Wyandottes, at a little over 71 eggs. I herewith give my average for the same time with 14 Wyandottes, five of which were a year old by April 1st, and nine were a year old July 1st, 1899."

"We keep strict account every day, hence know the average is correct. During this time six of the Wyandottes hatched out broods of chicks. (we find they make fine mothers), and the others have all had attacks of broodiness."

"Our cost of feeding is as near as can be figured at 1-2 cent per head per day. This includes both fowls and chicks from birth to death."

"The record is as follows: January, 188 eggs; February, 281; March, 308; April, 268; May, 149; June, 161; or, an average of nearly 97 eggs per hen for the six months."

Child's In the advertising columns of this issue will be found the card of Wm. H. Child, the well-known White and Silver Wyandotte breeder of Hatboro, Pa. The advertisement is made conspicuous by the insertion of a cut of his Silver Wyandotte cock, winner at Hagerstown, '98, and West Chester, '99. Mr. Child has a few good cockerels, sons of this bird, that he can spare. Our readers are well acquainted with Mr. Child's stock, no better can be had anywhere for the money.

Our readers will remember that last year Mr. Child moved to Hatboro from Glenside. He has started in to build up a complete plant which will be one of the best in that section of the country. A new scratching shed house has been completed, measuring 10 x 400

feet, with pens both front and back. There are four pens 16 feet, and three pens 12 feet, making seven pens in all. Every building is put up with an idea of permanency. We shall watch this plant with a great deal of interest, and keep our readers posted on the steps made.

Mr. DePuy Emerson DePuy, the Feels Hurt. able editor of the handsome *Western Garden and Poultry Journal*, feels hurt. After having his innuendo at throwing mud at the truly practical meat and egg journals, he feels that we should have been above replying to the same. He says in the September issue of his paper that as he took occasion to state a few simple facts with reference to this subject, the shoe fit us and we promptly put our foot in it. Certainly the shoe fits us. Were we to write an editorial that there is not a weekly fanciers' paper worth a continental,—would Mr. Drevenstedt, of the *American Fancier*, or Mr. Atherton, of the *American Stock-Keeper*, be blamed for rising up and calling us down? Not a bit of it. We would have no right to try to hurt their business. There are only two purely practical papers in the country at the present time, and A FEW HENS is one of them. When the attempt is made to cripple the interests of that class are we to be blamed for calling Mr. DePuy's attention to it?

As Mr. DePuy refused to reprint what we said in our August number, his readers, unless they are also readers of our paper, have only one side of the story. That is to be regretted, for we believed Mr. DePuy would not hesitate to give all sides a hearing, no matter who it hurt. But we have been disappointed in that belief.

Mr. DePuy, we well see, is very likely to make mistakes, and he certainly makes a grievous one when he says A FEW HENS is nothing more than an appendix of *Farm-Poultry*. True, A FEW HENS is owned by the same firm that own *Farm-Poultry*, but outside of that fact there is nothing that connects them. The editors and editorial policy are quite different. There is a separate force on this paper, and the printing is even not done at the same office *Farm-Poultry* is printed.

But as Mr. DePuy will neither retract nor explain the wicked things he said about the meat and egg journals, we shall not devote more space to the subject. We are very well pleased with the success A FEW HENS has attained as a meat and egg journal, and we shall continue to traverse the same road.

Prairie State The Prairie State Incubator Company, of Homer City, Pa., enjoy a national reputation for getting out

ROCKY HILL GRIT

THE BEST ALL-ROUND GRIT KNOWN.

PRICE, {	One ton,	\$7.00
	One-half ton,	4.00
	100 lbs. (1 bag),	.50

By selling for cash, we have no losses, and can sell to consumers at manufacturers prices. Club together and buy at wholesale price. Low freight rates. Terms cash. Better than oyster shell. Go twice as far. ROCKY HILL GRIT WORKS, Milford, Mass.

fine catalogues. The book issued by them two years ago was a grand one, but it is practically nothing alongside the one that has just been issued. The pages of the 1900 edition are double in size those of 1898, and the colored plates are of much finer work. The cover is illuminated with a portrait of one of their new machines, over which is presided a regular dude. On the last cover page is a full view of all the factory buildings, including the residences of both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Nix. One hundred thousand copies of this handsome work, the cost of which runs in the thousands, will be circulated the coming season.

Mr. Cooper paid Hammontou a visit last month, the guest of the writer. With him he had the full designs of the machines they are placing on the market, and which will be sold at \$6 each and upwards. Notwithstanding that the price has been considerably cut, the Prairie State guarantee goes with them, and those who have ever dealt with that firm will know what that means. A force of 80 hands are now kept busy, working up stock to meet the present demands as well as to be ready for future ones. We will give a more full report of this catalogue after we see one complete—all that Mr. Cooper had with him at the time of his visit were some of the advance sheets.

The Black The 1899 catalogue of the Minorca. American Black Minorca Club has been received.

It is full of valuable information regarding this breed, and will help the sales wonderfully. Among the many good things noted is the fact that Mr. Northup has had a full hearing and vindicated of the charges made against him. We know Mr. Northup for a number of

FARM raised S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels, 75 cents each. Robt. Simpson, Brentwood, N. Y.

W. Rock and S. C. W. Leghorn Cockerels, \$1.50, or will exchange for W. Rock pullets. E. MARQUAND, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Free range, farm-raised, brown egg young stock of superior quality. Do you wish any? Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

BLACK Leghorns, 4 months old, prize stock. Great winter layers. 2 pullets and 1 cockerel, \$3. 5 months old, \$4. C. Q. TIRRELL, Porter, Mass.

BROWN LEGHORNS 12 hens, 1 cockerel, cheap. Young stock after September 1st. ZUNDEL BROS., Grapeville, Pa.

PEKIN DUCKS.

For a short time only I will sell young Breeding stock from my Prize-Winning Pekin ducks for \$1.00 each. FRED. P. HAYNES, Ellsworth, Maine.

The TELL TALE

Picks the layers out of any size flock. It needs no attention. Directions for building, 50 cents in silver. J. H. WOODHEAD, Box 226, Leicester, Mass.

TEN GOOD VIGOROUS

White Wyandotte Cocks

for sale. One year old. Price from 1 to 2 dollars. D. LINCOLN ORR, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

All from Heavy-Laying Stock.

S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels, half grown, \$1.00. Wh. Wyandotte Cocks, \$2; year-old cocks, \$2 to \$3. Light Brahma Cocks, year-old, \$2. White Plymouth Rock, year-old cocks, \$2 to \$3. Come early and get the choice. MICHAEL K. BOYER, . . . Hammonton, N. J.

years, and are glad to see that he has not been guilty of any misconduct. He is, without a doubt, one of the straightest and best poultrymen in this country.

We are glad to note that all through this catalogue it is shown that the members all strictly adhere to the fact that the breed must be kept up in its egg type. As a sample, see the following extracts:

"While at work increasing the size, we must not forget that to tamper with the egg yield would be to ruin our favorites. We want more eggs and larger eggs. Size is a good thing, but egg production is the rock on which the popularity of the Minorcas stands."

"Those wishing eggs running six or less to the pound, must pin their faith to Black Minorcas, free from foreign blood."

"If you want to increase the popularity of Minorcas, strive to increase the size of their eggs."

"Remember that we are after the egg-laying type, and that can be found only in the long, deep-bodied birds."

C. J. Andruss says the size and beauty of their eggs first attracted his attention to the breed.

G. P. Reynaud says: "The fowl for the utility man is the Black Minorca, which, as a producer of large eggs, has no equal. Even did it stop there, it would still be entitled to consideration over the other breeds as an egg producer; but it is not satisfied with this undisputed title, and strives for the leadership in egg production as to numbers. While there are a few who, blinded by admiration for some other good breed, seek to place their favorites in the van of the egg breeds, it is none the less a fact that cannot be either truthfully or reasonably disputed that there is no breed known that will outlay Black Minorcas, and few, if any, that can equal them. We should all favor long, deep-bodied birds, as the trait we are to preserve, and to increase to the fullest limit the prolific production of large eggs. Unless we have the proper body it is idle to expect that which has made the breed so popular. Let us bend all our energies in that direction and aim to produce birds that in turn will give eggs running from 6 to 4 to the pound."

J. H. Santee says: "Too much care and attention cannot be given to mating up your pens of Black Minorcas each year for breeding purposes. One should always keep in mind what they are intended for, that is the practical part, and select only large, vigorous, strong birds with the correct shape—the long, deep bodies."

J. Y. Bicknell says: "It has been said that 'The Minorca lays the most eggs and the largest eggs of any breed.' This is not in accordance with facts. There are others which lay as many as the Minorca and there are others which lay as large eggs, but there is not another breed which will lay as many of the same size as the Minorca. If you want table qualities alone, don't take the Minorca; because, although they are a first-class table fowl when bred up to the standard, there are others which would serve you better, but if you want a combination of flesh and eggs, with a

preponderance of the latter, none will serve you better."

R. F. Palmer says: "In the recognized varieties of domestic fowls there are none with stronger claims to popularity than those included in the Mediterranean class. They are the egg layers of the feathered world, and in this class there are none with stronger claims to the right to roost on the top round of the ladder than Minorcas. They are the largest of the non-sitting varieties, being fully one-third larger than the Leghorns, and lay the largest egg of any variety and the most of them. Why, then, should they not take rank as the best possible utility fowl, as well as the pride of the fancier? There is an impression amongst the uninformed that they are not good winter layers. Nothing could be more erroneous. Properly housed and fed, there is not their equal to be had. To get the best results from them they must have exercise. They are not large eaters, and a good scratching shed, where they are kept busy hunting the few grains, which should be occasionally scattered in the litter, with a variety of food interspersed with vegetables and the scraps from the table, will insure the best results, and your trouble will be well repaid by well-filled egg baskets at all seasons of the year. I know of no fowl that will do so well in confinement, if the above instructions are followed, and none that will be sure to furnish such good results."

James W. Garlick sounds the praises of the Minorca in this couplet:

"Then shout hurrah for this black hen,
The biggest boon for poultrymen.
Toss up your hat and bare your crown,
Shout till you're hoarse, she will not down.
Corn may be king
Or any old thing,
But the fact remains, it's plain to be seen,
The Minorca hen is America's Queen"

S. Champion says: "In egg production the Minorca is unequalled, laying, nearly the year round, a large well-flavored egg, that is providing the breeder furnishes the desired material for her consumption. As a table fowl they are becoming more in demand yearly, as people in days gone by have been skeptical against black fowls, but in the Minorca you will find a heavy-meated bird, very juicy and of fine flavor. This is not found in any of the non-sitting varieties but the Minorca."

R. I. REDS. Prolific layers. Eggs, 26, \$1.50; \$4 pr. 100. St'k in season. E. S. Piper, Camden, Me.

MICHAEL K. BOYER, editor A FEW HENS, has tried and fully endorses Steyer's Lice Powder.

33 Ribbons Boston and New York.

Mr. Boyer recommends my stock and myself. My Rose C. Brown have a record of over 220 eggs to a hen in '98, '99. S. C. Browns and Rose, second to none in the world. White and Barred Rocks, Bradley & Thompson stock. Pekin Ducks, 10 lb. stock. Buff Leghorns, Wh. Leghorns, (Whiting). Wh. Wyans., (Dustin). Bl. Langshans and Minorcas. Stock all of best blood. Cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets for sale. A Buff Cochlin cock, \$3.50.
W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.

If People only Knew

what strong, vigorous Cockerels and Pullets we have for sale and ready to enter the breeding pen, they surely would buy some. Considering the quality and vigor of the stock, we claim to have as good and cheap as any one. If you are interested in Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Guinea or Chickens, send for my catalogue, it fully describes the 23 varieties I breed. It is now time to inquire about incubator eggs. We can furnish them by the 100 or 1000. Prices quoted on application. D. A. MOUNT,

Pine Tree Farm, Jamesburg, N. J.

Geo. H. Northrup says: "It may be asked, 'What qualities do Minorcas possess which other fowls do not?' It is that in them are combined the highest degree of excellence of the three qualities for which domestic fowls are valued, viz., greatest number of eggs, largest size of eggs and excellence of the fowls for table use. In many tests, several of which were made in the governmental experiment station of Canada and reported by order of Parliament, Minorcas have been found to excel all other breeds for winter layers and for size of eggs. It is conceded by all who know Minorcas that they excel all others. It is a great satisfaction to the producer to have the largest eggs in the market to distribute to his customers, and, on account of size, the eggs of Minorcas always find a more ready sale than eggs from common hens, at an advance of from 3 to 5 cents per dozen above the market price. Thus the seller is better paid and the buyer is better satisfied."

R. L. Simmons says: "The Minorca in the South will commence laying at 5 to 6 months old, under ordinary treatment, and will lay through the winter when eggs are high, and will lay more eggs than any other fowl; will bear confinement better than any of the non-sitters, in fact, do nearly as well as when given free range."

A copy of the Catalogue will be sent free by addressing the Secretary, Rowland Story, 187 Arlington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

WHEN your poultry are lousy, try **Steyer's Lice Powder**. It will bring good results.

BARRED ROCK EGGS from yard headed by Cockerel from A. C. Hawkins. Hens are large, nice shape, well marked, and good layers. \$1.00 for 13. A few settings Indian Game eggs, yard headed by first Cockerel, Washington, D. C., December, '97. \$2.00 per 13. Pekin Duck eggs, Pollard stock, \$1.00 per 13. C. C. SHORB, McDaniel, Md.

THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR



Hatches Chickens by Steam. Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable, and cheapest first-class Hatcher in the market. Circulars free.

GEO. ERTLE CO., Quincy, Ill.

Catalogue 40 cents.

Niagara Farm,

1899 BREEDING STOCK.

Mammoth Pekin Ducks, Pure White Wyandottes, Mammoth Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. White Holland Turkeys, \$2.00 each. New Crop Niagara brand fine cut green cured Clover, \$1.50 per 100 pounds.

One 400-egg size Prairie State Incubator, \$30.00, or will exchange for White Wyandottes.

POULTRY SUPPLIES.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

Circular.

Liquid Lice Killer banishes lice and all vermin from poultry and stock. Formula how to make and use it 10 cents. GALLATIN CO., York, Pa.



Send 15c. and receive plans and a few ideas in poultry house building that will be a surprise to you. A. H. WHITMORE, Hamonton, N. J.



GREAT LAYING brown egg strains farm-raised Light Brahma and White Wyandotte cockerels, Barred P. Rock cockerels and pullets, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$3.00. Orders booked now for Nov. 1st delivery. Yearling hens \$1. Your money back if you want it. Otter Creek Poultry Farm, Vergennes, Vt.

6000 FERRETS. Pure blood, furnished not akin. Finest strain in the land. Bred from good workers. Small, medium and large birds. Trained. Will kill rats and hunt rabbits. Price low. Safe arrival guaranteed. Book "Care and Working" free. S. & L. Farnsworth, New London, O.

GEESSE FOR PROFIT—Continued.

The Toulouse probably reached this country at a later date than the Embden or Bremen and African or Hong Kong breeds, as a prominent poultry judge (I. K. Felch) in a personal letter states that he saw both those breeds at exhibitions at an earlier date than the Toulouse.

A veteran goose breeder, William Rankin, says of the Africans: "I think the most perfect goose is the pure bred African, as they lay more eggs, mature earlier, and make more pounds of flesh in the same time, while they are very vigorous and hardy, and you will almost always raise all you hatch. The relatively large number of males required, the exclusiveness of the gander and his mates, the comparative large amount of range necessary for the breeding stock, and their aversion to close confinement, are some of the reasons why very large numbers of geese cannot be profitably kept together.

The utmost confusion prevails in poultry literature regarding the name of the African goose. Saunders says: "The principal breeds of geese are the China goose (which is also called the Guinea goose, Spanish goose, and a host of other names in the English tongue), Toulouse goose and the Bremen or Embden goose."

There is a curious plan to determine sex adopted in Cambridgeshire. All the geese are shut in a stable or a pig sty; a small dog is then put in. It is said, and we believe with truth, the geese will all lift up their heads and go to the back of the place, while the ganders will lower and stretch out their necks, hissing all the time.

Goose breeding is never likely to be monopolized by a few breeders on a grand scale, but is likely always to remain in the hands of the many farmers who have low lying lands along brooks, rivers, and ponds, which, while comparatively worthless for other purposes, furnish ideal conditions for successful goose breeding.

The Canada gander is also used for mating with the African or Toulouse goose—the former is preferred—for the breeding of the "mongrel" or "wild mongrel," as it is sometimes called, and which has the reputation of being second only to canvas-back duck in quality and flavor when properly prepared for the table.

Before the days of steam or furnace heated houses and coiled spring mattresses, live geese feathers were a more important item, and commanded a higher price than at present, and the fact that the breeding birds could be plucked from one to three or more times a season was an inducement to the keeping of geese which has very little force now.

In regard to the development of special qualities by breeding, Mr. Rankin says: Thirty years ago I rarely had a bird that would lay over 30 eggs; now they often lay 60, and occasionally more. When I was a boy my father used to say, 'If you raise 10 goslings from a goose, you are all

right.' Now we feel that we ought to raise from 25 to 30."

Under date of February 17th, 1898, William Rankin writes: "In 1888 I kept 12 African geese, and the flock averaged 37.42 eggs each. I also kept, the same year, 6 Toulouse geese which averaged 30.68 eggs each, while 10 Embdens, kept the same season, averaged 28.12 eggs per goose. I have since done better with the Embden; I think one goose laid 68 eggs in the season of 1895."

Morris relates a number of instances where ganders have become the inseparable companions of their masters, following them about the fields, on hunting expeditions, and into the streets of a town, like the most devoted dog. He also narrates how faithfully a gander discharged the self imposed duty of guardian and guide to an old blind woman. Whenever she went to church he directed her footsteps into safe paths by taking hold of her gown with his bill, and during the service he nipped the grass in the cemetery close by, until she required his services as guide to return home.

FOR SALE. S. C. White Leghorn cockerels; fine stock; 75c. each. J. A. Ainge, Dover, N. J.

SEND a 2-cent stamp to A. F. Steyer & Co., 2605 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., for a free sample of Steyer's Lice Powder.



THE WINTER LAYER

will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

Pioneer Clover Meal

It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.

THE BENNETT & MILLETT COMPANY,
Box 11, Gouverneur, N. Y.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

E. D. E.: If your chicks have no lice they must be suffering from indigestion. Do you feed cornmeal mixed with cold water? That will do it. Cornmeal should never be fed young chicks excepting in a cooked state.

S. S.: Fowls really are not fit to eat during molting. The strength of the feed goes into the growth of the feathers, and this makes the meat unattractive to the taste.

J. S. B.: Painting the hard corn on the bottom of the foot liberally with tincture of iodine, daily for about a week, is apt to scatter the swelling.

B. F. B.: To disinfect with sulphur, wrap about one pound in a newspaper and place in an iron vessel. Set fire to the newspaper and get out of the building. Be sure that every window and door is closed. After burning about an hour or two, open the window and leave out the smoke. In 2 or 3 hours it will be safe for the fowls to enter.

TRAP NEST.

Patent applied for.
Send for a circular of the **RECORD**.
S. A. McWILLIAMS, Jr.,
3456 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Poultry Printing
I make a specialty of poultry printing, having cuts of all kinds of poultry. Anything you want in that line you will save money by asking for prices.
UNION PRINTING CO., Anthony, R. I.

I. K. FELCH & SON,
Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,
and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

FOUR Poultry Papers For \$1.15.

None Better; None as Good for Practical Poultrymen.

FARM-POULTRY, semi-monthly,	Price \$1.00
INTER-STATE POULTRYMAN, monthly,	.50
POULTRY KEEPER,	.50
A FEW HENS,	.25

You Save \$1.10 Cold Cash, and get the Cream of Poultry Knowledge.

The four papers one year, all sent to one address, post-paid, for \$1.15. Send all orders to us. The combination cannot be changed or filled as above, unless all ordered at one time.

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.

F. P.: When a regular vomit comes from the fowl held up by the legs, it is a sign of indigestion. See that there is plenty of good, sharp grit, and that there is either constantly a supply of charcoal within reach, or some is mixed with the morning mash.

* * *

BROILERS AND CHICKS.

C. H. V. H.: To make a living out of broilers, it would be necessary to have about 200 hens to furnish the eggs. It would require an incubator capacity of 1200 eggs to handle the eggs laid, and a brooder capacity of about 1500 to 2000 chicks.

W. S. S.: It is a common affair to find chicks in flocks more or less bare of feathers. This is noticeable almost exclusively among the smaller chicks of the flock. We have an idea that it is caused by these smaller chicks crowding under the larger ones at night and sweating. This continued sweating seems to rot the feathers at the base and they fall out. We are not giving that as a fact, but it is a theory that we have, after closely watching chicks for years.

B. B.: Chicks should be thoroughly dry before removing from the incubator. The brooder should be about 90 degrees in heat when the chicks are first put in. A brooder house that maintains a heat of 80 degrees in the day time, will not be that at night. It is imperative that a sufficient heat be kept up at night.

B. B.: It is a mistake to feed young chicks exclusively on millet seed, or any one article of diet. They need a variety from the start. It was that continued millet diet that brought on the bowel troubles. We start chicks with rolled oats and dry bread crumbs. After 10 days old we gradually wean them over to mixture composed of bran, middlings, oatmeal and cornmeal, and as they grow older add meat scraps. During the day, by way of variety, we give them some whole wheat. Charcoal and grit is also added to the daily bill of fare.

* * *

FOOD AND FEEDING.

S. S.: Sweet corn is relished by fowls, by way of variety.

H. M. S.: Cow peas are principally used by farmers for soiling. The seed can be had of almost any dealer in seeds.

C. H. G.: Extract, as referred to in feed tables, is an inspissated, expressed, or exuded juice.

E. L. S.: Sweet potatoes are relished by fowls, but they should be fed raw. To feed them cooked makes a too-fattening food.

E. W. A.: Both buckwheat and barley are good grains to add to the bill of fare by way of variety, but they must be fed with more or less caution, as they are of a fattening nature.

J. C. H.: We feed raw apples three and four times a week to our poultry, and have not yet noticed any bad effects from it.

H. H.: Any grain fed exclusively is apt to produce bowel troubles.

K. L. J.: It is an excellent idea to

occasionally mix sand with the soft food, especially if the sand is coarse. It is one of the best preventatives of indigestion.

E. D. P.: We never used the American Cereal Co.'s food, but have had good reports from parties that have used it. We cannot say if it is better than the H-O Co.'s prepared food or not.

I. S. J.: Rape is an excellent green food for poultry.

H. S. C.: Onions are excellent for both old and young stock. Chop them up about the size of whole corn.

W. M. L.: You can get bread crumbs from Johnson & Stokes, 217 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa.

* * *

BUILDING.

E. D. E.: If the lamp brooders do not warm your house enough in winter, you should have a coal stove in the room to furnish the extra heat. An underground brooding house would not do.

C. F. P.: We never favored top ventilators. A much better plan is to have a mosquito netting door at the hole where the fowls go through to get out into the runs. Then, besides, on fine days, throw open the doors and windows and let in the pure air and sunshine.

H. L. S.: The Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., furnish plans for improved incubator and brooder houses.

C. H. V. H.: For poultry buildings there is certainly nothing better than Neponset paper.

BUILT FOR BUSINESS!



That's the idea. Nothing fancy; nothing foolish; just straight, practical, honest, lasting!

The Cyphers Incubators

positively warranted to last TEN YEARS, without repairs. Guaranteed to OUT-HATCH, during three trials, any other incubator on the market. THIS OR YOUR MONEY BACK. Circulars and price list free. 136 page (8x11 inches) Cyphers' Treatise on Incubation, Catalogue and Guide to Poultry Culture for 10c in stamps—worth dollars. The Cyphers Incubator Co., Box 29, Wayland, N. Y.

MY Buff Rocks and Wyandottes have won many prizes. Old and young stock for sale. J. F. DAY, Shushan, N. Y.

85 PREMIUMS ON 85 ENTRIES.

Barred and White Rocks, White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Brown Leghorns and Javas. Surplus stock in cockerels and breeders. Good cockerels \$2.00; three for \$5.00. Write. GEO. A. CHAPIN, Hampden, Mass.

Uneda TRAP NEST.

You "push the button" the hen "does the rest." You get the hen and the egg.

W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

200 BREEDERS of all varieties for sale. 75 Cockerels, cheap. Write your wants and I will give you low prices. JAMES M. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Montg. Co., Pa.

LICE AND BAD LUCK

Keep your poultry free from lice and you will have no trouble with other diseases.

PIKE'S LICE DESTROYER

will kill the lice and mites or money refunded. Send for circulars and prices.

SPRAGUE COMMISSION CO., 218 South Water Street, Chicago, Ill.

H. W. P.: Building on rented ground is more or less of a risk. No one cares to erect substantial buildings on land that belongs to another, and, consequently, too much is done for "a shift."

R. P. J.: The floor of the hen house should always be about a foot higher than the level of the land outside. That will prevent much dampness.

T. O. B.: We prefer earth floors, as the fowls do better.

B. P. A.: The ceiling of the house should be double-boarded, with an air space between. It will prevent frost accumulating.

* * *

EGGS.

I. A. S.: Our experience in hatching Brahma eggs shows that in Spring it very often takes a hen a day or two longer to hatch them than it does any other eggs. They hatch as well in incubators as any eggs of the American class, but they require different treatment as far as moisture is concerned.

J. M. S.: The White-Faced Black Spanish lays a larger sized egg than any other breed.

P. O.: Repeated experiments made on A FEW HENS Experimental Farm have proved that the best plan for securing strong, fertile eggs, is either have two males for one pen, or three males for two pens, and change them every night.

F. R. B.: New York prefers a white egg. They are partial to what is known as the "White Leghorn egg," which is not so much due to the

A Few Cockerels and Pullets, R. I. Reds, farm raised, good stock. Pairs \$5 up; trios \$7 and up. P. R. PARK, 195 Lowell Street, Methuen, Mass.

WHITE WYANDOTTES bred for eggs and meat. Cockerels and Pullets \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. E. SCHAAF, Box 121, Woodbury, N. Y.

FOR SALE. No. 1 "Dandy" bone mill, \$7.50, cost \$10. Four Cornish Indian hens, 2 pullets, 1 cockerel, \$5 for the lot. 20 W. Wyandotte and B. P. Rock cockerels, \$1 each. March hatched. C. N. TILLOTSON, Bounton, N. J.

NEW YORK PAYS

highest price for White Leghorn eggs. Why raise brown ones? Big, lusty cockerels at \$2.00 each. G. E. CHALFANT, Hammonton, N. J.

The Cuckoo Won

The Cuckoo Trap Nest, in the severest test carried out at A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, won first as containing the most good points. It is a double door nest, well ventilated, makes a handsome appearance, and does the work accurately. Price \$1.00. JOHN GEISHAKER, Hammonton, N. J.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	- -	25 Cents:
A Living From Poultry,	- -	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	- -	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	- -	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	- -	25 "
Total,		\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

WHEN YOU HAVE ANY

Poultry for Market

Write for prices to

PHILIP QUIGLEY,

Produce Commission Merchant,

No. 303 South Front Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of August—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Avenue, New York City.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	19	16 1-2	17 4-5
Philada. Roasting Chickens, 23	19	21	
Broilers.....	20	17	18 1-2
Fowls.....	13	11 1-2	12 1-4
Ducks.....	17	12	14 6-7

PHILADELPHIA.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	16 1-2	13 1-2	15
Hens, live.....	13	11	12
Hens, dressed	12	11	11 2-3
Roasting Chickens, live....	14	12	13
Roasting Chickens, dressed	18	15	16 1-2
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 2-3
Old Roosters, dressed	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Ducks, live.....	11	10	10 2-3

BOSTON.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape	22	22	22
Eggs, Eastern,	17	17	17
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	17	17	17
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	15 1-2	14 1-2	15
NORTHERN and EASTERN.			
Chickens, dressed.....	20	20	20
Chickens, live.....	14	12	13
Fowls, dressed	12 1-2	12 1-2	12 1-2
Fowls, live.....	11 1-2	10	10 3-4
Roosters, live.....	7	7	7
Broilers, nearby.....	18	14	16
Ducks, dressed	16	16	16
WESTERN.			
Turkeys,	11	11	11
Turkeys, old toms.....	11	10 1-2	10 3-4
Broilers.....	15	12	13 2-5
Fowls.....	11 1-2	11	11 2-3
Old cocks	7 1-2	7 1-2	7 1-2

CHICAGO.

Furnished A FEW HENS by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	12 1-2	11	11 2-3
Chickens, hens, scalded....	10	9	9 2-3
Chickens, hens, alive.....	9 1-2	9	8 3-4
Spring chickens, scalded..	13	10	11 4-7
Spring chickens, live.....	13	10	11 3-6
Roosters, old, live.....	6	6	6
Roosters, young, live.....	6	6	6
Roosters, dressed	6	6	6
Ducks, live, old.....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Ducks, live, spring	9	8	8 1-4
Ducks, dressed, old.....	10	7 1-2	9
Ducks, dressed, spring....	9	7 1-2	8 1-3
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.50
Geese, dressed, old.....	7	7	7
Geese, dressed, spring....	12	12	12
Turkey hens, dressed.....	10	8 1-2	9 1-3
Turkey gobblers, live.....	8	7 1-2	7 3-4
Turkey hens, live.....	9	8 1-2	8 3-4
Turkey gobblers, young..	10	10	10
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	8	7 1-2	7 3-4

100 Cockerels, early farm raised, noted strains. White, Buff, Silver Wyand., Barred, White P. Rocks; S. C. Wh. Leg., \$1.50. Wh. Hol. Turkeys, \$2. Maple Shade Poultry Farm, Stanfordsville, N. Y.

Vigorous W. Wyandottes, W. Leghorns, B. P. Rocks, pullets, cockerels, yearling hens and P. ducks; farm range, utility bred; cheap to make room. LIBERTY POULTRY FARM, Harrington Park, N. J.

WHITE Wyandottes (Andrews strain), **WHITE** Plymouth Rocks (Empire strain). Farm raised. Cockerels \$2.00 and \$3.00 each. S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels, \$1.00 each. J. A. JOHNSON, Briggs Corner, Attleboro, Mass.

breed as it is to a good-sized pure white egg. You would have no trouble in disposing of your Black Minorca eggs under that head.

M. L. H.: We have heard of a preparation which closely resembles the contents of an egg, but there will never be any danger of any preparation hurting the hen egg market.

T. A. L.: We do not know of any reliable method of destroying the fertility of an egg. Some poultrymen prick them with a sharp needle, and others dip them for a second in hot water. But neither of them are absolutely certain.

L. B. L.: A hen will lay just as many eggs without the attentions of a male bird as with one.

G. O. B.: The Cochin egg is smaller than that of the Brahma. The latter breed is also the better layer.

* *

BREEDS.

J. B.: We have no reliable data regarding the manufacture of the White Wonders, but the general impression is that they were originally produced by crossing White Wyandotte cocks on Light Brahma hens.

J. B.: The Houdans are excellent layers. Their eggs are large and white. As table fowls there are none better. The only serious handicap the breed has is the crest. This, if it becomes

water soaked, is apt to produce colds and roup.

J. A. D.: We have always found the Langshan a hardy bird. But like in all breeds, you are apt to come across a delicate strain. That probably is the secret of your experience.

J. G.: The Black-Breasted Red Game is probably the most popular of the Game family. As a rule, Games are only indifferent layers.

H. J. K.: We consider the Light Brahma the hardiest of all breeds.

S. P. T.: There never was a recognized breed of Creepers in this country. Some years ago an effort was made to create such a breed, but it fell through.

J. O. G.: J. H. Drevenstedt was probably the first poultryman to recognize the superiority of the Wyandotte over all other breeds for broiler purposes.

W. G. P.: The Black Orpington, we understand, was some years ago made up from crosses between the Black Minorca, Black Langshan and Barred Plymouth Rock, by Wm. Cook, St. Marys Cray, Kent, England.

P. O. T.: I. K. Felch might well be termed the introducer of Light Brahmas in this country.

* *

MATING.

J. B.: We do not favor mating the sire to his offspring. That is the most



If your hens are shedding their feathers and not laying, they are out of condition. The best poultry authorities say, "when hens are in condition they will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Then help them over molting time or your egg profit will be lost.

Sheridan's Condition Powder

will help the molting hens. The process of molting is a very exhausting one. The growing of new feathers requires all the nitrogen and phosphates in the food, so that there is an extra demand upon the strength. The elements needed by poultry at molting, in addition to good food, are contained in SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER to a high degree. Thousands of poultrymen have proven it to be worth its weight in gold for molting hens. It keeps them in health, helps form the new plumage, and gets them in condition to lay when prices are high. Hens rarely lay when they are molting.

JOHN R. JONES, of Suffield, Conn., says:—"I find Sheridan's Condition Powder fed once daily in the food, very valuable for molting hens. It assists in growing new feathers, makes the combs bright red, and gives a rich, natural gloss to the plumage. Have used it for years."

When your hens show signs of molting, feed them once daily, in a hot bran mash, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It will help your hens to get their new coat quickly and will bring young pullets to early laying. Do this and you will have as others do who have tried the plan, an abundance of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when eggs sell from 25 to 45 cents per dozen.

C. A. GRAVES, of West Whately, Mass., says:—"Sheridan's Condition Powder, is in my opinion the best egg producer ever discovered. I have fed it for three years and shall continue its use for growing stock, as it helps to develop and hasten the maturity of pullets."

J. W. HEGE, of Williamson, Pa., says:—"I received \$5.00 worth of Sheridan's Powder of you. Began to feed the Powder at once. Our eggs increased three times the amount in a month's feeding. I can say if the farmer will begin to feed Sheridan's Condition Powder early in the fall, his hens will be ready to lay daily when eggs commence to rise."

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST.

We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

dangerous kind of inbreeding. Better secure new blood.

E. C. S.: Crosses produce stamina, but they destroy the purity of the breed.

A. W. C.: Much credit is due the fanciers for the maintenance of the purity of breeds, but there is no doubt about their destroying the usefulness of the breeds when breeding too closely in relationship.

C. C. I.: A fancier mates for what he wants in Standard markings. A breeder mates for eggs and carcasses. That is the difference between the two.

W. I. A.: When using two males for one hen, or three males for two hens, it is best to have the males brothers.

P. M. H.: Always mate the hardiest and most rugged of stock. Never use a bird having any weakness.

P. C. C.: Either a cockerel to one-year old hens, or a one-year old male to two-year old hens, are matings for vigor.

L. I. P.: We are not fully acquainted with the double-mating systems. They belong to the fancy.

L. K. M.: I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., will send a breeding chart for a two-cent stamp that gives valuable information in that art.

F. H. S.: There is no truth in the assertion that year old hens will not produce strong, vigorous stock. Some of the finest birds we have on our farm were produced from yearling hens.

A. B. S.: If you want eggs for breeding about March or April, we should not mate the birds before about January or February.

Linden Poultry Yards

Buff Rocks. Buff Cochins.

We haven't all the best stock to be found, but we have some of it. A pleasure to send our circular if you mention A Few Hens. Ten fine Buff Leghorn hens and a 400-egg Reliable Incubator for sale.

C. B. CROWELL, Brattleboro, Vt.

POULTRY PLANT

For Sale.

A GREAT BARGAIN.

Sixty acres; three laying houses (capacity 800), two brooder houses (capacity 4000 chicks). Incubator cellar. Houses modern and convenient in every way. Three cottages, two barns, sheds, etc. Young orchard containing some 1500 fruit trees.

Town of 3500 and city of 20,000 about 5 miles distant. In mountains, fine climate and fine views. Satisfactory reason for selling given if desired. Will be sold cheap if taken at once.

WALTER WATSON, Salem, Va.

WHITE WYANDOTTES, ONLY.

Entire time given to breeding for eggs and meat. Large, vigorous March cockerels, sired by a 10 1-2 pound cock, mated to 9 pound unrelated females.

We have some Beauties for \$2.00.

Eggs from same mating, \$2 per 13.

We will try to please.

HOMESTEAD POULTRY FARM, Hopkinton, Mass.

CLEAR GRIT. OYSTER SHELLS. MEAT MEAL. cheapest and best on the market; also B. P. Rocks, White Wyandottes, White Indian Games, Brahma Bantams and W. C. Black Polish. As good as the best. Can please the most exacting. Write for list.

D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

WHITE Wyandottes

GOLDEN EGG STRAIN.

I have a large number of early hatched cockerels, sons and grandsons of old Golden Egg, for sale. They are excellent breeders. April hatched cockerels weigh 6 1-2 to 7 pounds. Prices reasonable.

WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

The RELIABLE Nest Box

Points out each layer and her egg. Simple, Reliable, Safe, Cheap. 10 cents per nest. Complete Plans and Directions for making three styles, sent for \$1.00. Send for circular. Mention A Few Hens.

M. L. NEWELL, Box 179, Denver, Colo.

Established 1855.

BENNETT, RAND & CO.,

Commission Merchants,

POULTRY, GAME, BUTTER, EGGS, Etc.

Nos. 19 and 20 North Market Street,
and 19 Clinton Street, BOSTON, MASS.

IF BOTH PAPERS

ARE ORDERED

We Will Make the Price as Follows:

A FEW HENS one year, 25 Cents.

FARM-POULTRY one year, 75 Cents.

BOTH \$1.00.

This saves you twenty per cent,
as the regular price is \$1.25.

SEND ALL ORDERS TO

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

EVERY MOTHER SHOULD Have it in the House

For the common ailments which will occur in every family as long as life has woes. She can safely trust what time has indorsed.

I have been a standard bearer more than fifty years for Johnson's Anodyne Liniment. I have found it superior to any other. My grandchildren and great-grandchildren continue to use it. Mrs. W. L. TOZIER, E. Corinth, Maine.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

Originated by an old Family Physician; is recommended by physicians; has relieved more suffering than any other remedy. It is for Internal as much as External use. Dropped on sugar it is pleasant to take for colds, coughs, croup, colic, cramps, pains.

SAFE SOOTHING SATISFYING

There is not a remedy in use which has the confidence of the public to a greater extent.

Our book on INFLAMMATION sent free. Directions with every bottle. At druggists. Price 35c. I. S. JOHNSON & Co., Boston, Mass.

Parsons' Pills

"Best Liver Pill made." Positively cure Biliousness, Sick Headache, all Liver and Bowel complaints. They expell all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25c. I. S. JOHNSON & Co., Boston, Mass.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

Neponset roofing beats shingles.

Sheridau's Condition Powder helps moulting hens.

Now is the time to buy a bone cutter. See the advertisements in this issue.

Read Prof. Cushman's advertisement of Rhode Island Reds. He's got grand good stock.

Look up the incubator and brooder advertisements. It's a good time now to place your orders.

The Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Ills., have just issued a new manual on incubators, brooders, poultry supplies and poultry. Every beginner wants our combination: A FEW HENS one year, and our books Broilers for Profit, Farm-Poultry Doctor, Profitable Poultry Farming, and A Living from Poultry. The complete set for \$1.

Rocky Hill Grit, advertised in this issue, is fast coming to the front as a hard, sharp and valuable grit. Before laying in a supply of grinding material, it will be advisable to see a sample of this article.

W. V. Russ, proprietor of the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York city, is making the sale of thoroughbred poultry a specialty. Mr. Russ has made arrangements with some of the best breeders in the country, which enables him to supply almost anything needed in that line, at very close figures.

It is well known to readers of the newspapers that prices generally have been advancing steadily here of late, including those for labor, lumber and metals of all kinds. As a result the prices of all manufactured articles must soon follow suit, including the prices of incubators and brooders. This simply cannot be helped; there is no way of getting around it. The Cyphers Incubator Co., Wayland, N. Y., therefore hereby gives notice to interested persons that so soon as their new catalogue and price list for 1899-1900 is issued, which will be about Nov. 1st to 15th, the prices of their incubators and brooders will be increased fully 20 per cent. All who think favorably of buying a strictly first-class incubator this fall or next winter will find it much to their advantage to immediately correspond with the Cyphers Co., in order to obtain what is wanted at the present low prices. The fact is that the Cyphers Co., is in a position just now to save a limited number of customers from \$7 to \$18 net cash, depending on size of machines bought. For full particulars address The Cyphers Incubator Co., Box 29, Wayland, N. Y.

It is not a question among successful poultrymen whether green cut bone is profitable to feed; that has been established long, long ago, and admits of no doubt. But it is of great importance that the bone cutter selected should be of the best, with all up-to-date improvements. The F. W. Mann Co., were the originators of the bone cutter, have had the largest experience, and have wonderfully improved their opportunities. They have always led, and by surrounding themselves with the best brains, skilled workmen, and the very best material, the bone cutters they offer this season are better than ever. It was once said not long ago, by the editor of one of the leading poultry journals, that "Mann's Bone Cutter was as far ahead of all others, as an express train is ahead of a two-horse team." It has been the purpose of this Company, by fair dealing and first-class goods, to foster such sentiments and to maintain the prestige so long accorded to them. We can heartily recommend this firm to our readers, assuring them that they will receive the full value for their money, and that all goods will be just as represented. They report a successful business last year, with prospects for a still greater trade this year. Their success is a just reward for the inventive skill that has given to the fraternity such valuable aid in the form of special machinery that has done so much to make the poultry business a successful profession.

SUPPLIES for POULTRY.

50 lb. bag Clover Meal, \$1. 100 lb. bag Pure Beef Scraps, \$2.25; 50 lbs. for \$1.25. 100 lbs. Meat Meal, \$2.25. 100 lb. bag Mica Crystal Grit, 75 cts. 100 lbs. Oyster Shells for 75 cts. Lambert's Death to Lice, 25 cts. Greeley's Roup Cure, 25 and 50 cts. Price list for the asking. FRED. F. KELLY, Palmyra, N. Y.

BLACK MINORCAS bred for 10 years for heavy layers. Yearling hens at low price. Mrs. GEO. E. MONROE, Dryden, N. Y. Member Black Minorca Club.